



Empowering voters, defending democracy

# Annual 2024 Report

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*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.*

*LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.*

## Annual Meeting Program, March 2, 2024

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### *Breaking the Silence: Telling Stories to Seek Change*

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#### **Featuring Kim Bergman and Lesa Patterson-Kinsey**

Every person's story has the power to spark meaningful change. Just ask our featured speakers, Kim Bergman and Lesa Patterson-Kinsey, who spearheaded the movement to pass the Statute of Limitation (SOL) Reform bill in Kansas for child sexual abuse. These advocates and survivors played key roles in driving the legislation forward, and sharing their stories and encouraging others to do so was pivotal in their achievement. Learn firsthand from those who championed change and discover how their efforts have reshaped the landscape of child protection.

#### **Presidents' Above and Beyond Awards**

Marie Hernandez and Richard Pund

## Annual Meeting Agenda, March 2, 2024

Call to Order  
Greetings from the President  
Organization of the Meeting  
    Declaration of Quorum  
    Adoption of Annual Meeting Rules  
    Adoption of Agenda  
    Appointment of Minutes Approval Committee  
    Appointment and Introduction of Parliamentarian  
Recognition of Board and Committee Chairs  
Proposed Revised Bylaws  
Financial Report and Administration  
    Financial Report  
    Adoption of 2024-2025 Budget  
Previously Adopted Positions  
Proposal Local Programs for 2024-2025  
Nominations and Elections  
Directions to the Board of Directors  
Announcements  
Adjournment

## Rules of the Annual Meeting

- When the chair recognizes a member, the speaker will give his/her name unless the chair already has identified the speaker by name.
- Each speaker, when recognized, will be limited to three minutes of comments.
- Any member wishing to speak may do so before anyone may speak a second time on the same subject, unless there is a point of clarification.
- Motions relating to program items shall be made verbally and in writing.
- Anyone proposing a non-recommended item must submit to the chair in writing a plan for implementing the study and specify the member who is committed to chairing the study committee (in case the leader is someone other than the person proposing the study).
- Items relating to the program shall be discussed in the same order in which they were presented to the members of the meeting.
- Direction to the board from members shall be given verbally, and if complex or lengthy, both verbally and in writing to the secretary.

## Parliamentary Procedure

As a set of rules for conducting meetings, parliamentary procedure is designed to allow a group to accomplish its goals fairly, as smoothly as possible and with justice and courtesy to all. While the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* applies to all League meetings, the rules that apply during an annual meeting, council or convention are somewhat more formal than the rules that apply in committees and smaller boards. Therefore, the following chart may help you in our annual meeting.

<b><i>Motions at a Glance</i></b>			
<b><i>To Do This:</i></b>	<b><i>You Say This:</i></b>	<b><i>Debatable?</i></b>	<b><i>What Vote?</i></b>
Introduce new business.	"I move to..."	Yes	Majority
Amend a motion	"I move to amend the motion by..."	Yes	Majority
Request information	"I rise for a point of information."	No	No Vote
Complain about noise, etc.	"I rise for a question of privilege."	No	No Vote
Call for a brief intermission.	"I move to recess for (?) minutes."	No	Majority
Refer the question to a committee for further study	"I move to refer the motion to the (?) committee for study."	Yes	Majority
Put a limit on debate (or extend debate).	"I move that debate be limited to (or extended to) five minutes."	No	2/3
Close or end debate	"I move the previous question."	No	2/3
Verify a voice vote by rising	"I call for a division" or "Division." <i>Must be made clear before chair states another motion.</i>	No	No Vote
Ask for a counted vote	"I move the vote be counted." <i>Must be made before chair states another motion.</i>	No	Majority
Reconsider an action	"I move to reconsider the vote on the motion to..."	Yes/No	Majority
Call attention to breach of rules	"I rise to a point of order."	No	Chair rules, may be appealed.
Suspend the rules temporarily	"I move to suspend the rules so that...:"	No	2/3
Require a vote when the chair proposed unanimous consent	"I object" or "Objection."	No	---

# Minutes of March 4, 2023 Annual Meeting

## League of Women Voters of Johnson County Annual Meeting Minutes Johnson County Central Resource Library March 4, 2023

### ***Call to Order***

Janet Milkovich, President, called the meeting to order at 10:11.

### ***Greetings from the President***

Janet Milkovich welcomed everyone to the Annual Business Meeting. She reminded guests that they were welcome but not eligible to vote or speak out during the meeting. The purpose of the annual meeting is to approve the budget, hold elections, set the local program, and make other decisions for the coming year.

### ***Organization of the Meeting***

#### ***Declaration of Quorum***

Bylaws state that a quorum consisting of 15% of the total voting members must be present. As of January 31, we had 300 members. Eileen Manza reported that we had more than the 45 needed. Fifty-eight members were in attendance for the business meeting.

#### ***Adoption of Annual Meeting Rules***

Janet Milkovich said that the meeting would be run according to the bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order. The Rules of the Annual Meeting and Parliamentary Procedure were published in the annual report and provided as a printed handout.

No one asked for a reading of the meeting rules and they were adopted by general consent. Members were reminded to limit their remarks to three minutes.

#### ***Adoption of Agenda***

Mary Coffman moved to adopt the order of business as shown in the digital copy of the annual report and the printed handouts. Elaine Johnson seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the agenda was adopted by general consent.

#### ***Appointment of Minutes Approval Committee***

Janet announced the proposed members of the committee to approve the minutes: Robyn Hart, Juliet Sinclair, and Deb Scott as chair. There being no objection, the committee was appointed.

#### ***Appointment and Introduction of Parliamentarian***

Janet appointed Carol Farmer as parliamentarian. There were no objections.

#### ***Recognition of Board Members and Committee Chairs***

Janet Milkovich thanked the current board for their outstanding contributions and referred attendees to the officer reports on pages 9-24 in the annual report for details of their work. The board members recognized were: Connie Taylor and Andrea Vieux, Co-Vice Presidents; Diane Pickett, Treasurer; Tinna Hung, Secretary; Victoria Smith, Membership; Heidi Matthews, Communications; Anne Schuster, Anne Stroud, and Thomas Stroud, Voter Registration; Marie Hernandez, Voter Information. Kay Heley was the board appointed director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Resignations of Diane Pickett and Andrea Vieux were previously accepted. Victoria Smith and Tinna Hung are leaving the board after completing their full terms and will receive gift certificates to Rainy Day Books.

## **Financial Report and Administration**

The annual report contains two sections dealing with financial administration. The first, Appendix A: Annual Financial Review addresses the history of how monies were handled and is done to meet accounting standards. All was in order. The other section is the proposed fiscal year 2023-24 operating budget. It addresses the future. It was approved by the budget committee and the board for presentation to the membership today. Janet thanked Budget Committee Chair Lisa Kuhnke.

*Budget presentation - Lisa Kuhnke & Jerry Gilson*

**The budget committee consisted of Lisa Kuhnke, Jan Brunks, Mary Estrada, and Jerry Gilson** as Treasurer. Discussions between Jerry and Janet began around December 18, 2022 when the current treasurer was unable to complete her term. Board members made detailed requests of what they needed to move forward with the strategic plan. The committee met on January 18, 2023. Jerry provided an overview of the draft budget and the committee agreed with the recommendations. The draft budget was presented to the board on January 31, 2023.

Total income of \$40,730 is expected. Money comes from two main sources: dues from 300 members, and contributions and donations. We are now a 501(c)3 organization which helps tremendously with donations and grants. We also received a \$10,000 grant for voter education and services last year.

Expenses of \$40,730 are expected and focus on achieving our strategic plan in areas including: committee leadership, small group engagement, sponsorships, league branded promotional items, voter education, and diverse and inclusive communication to reach voters. Key line items are as follows: Financial support for LWV US takes 35% of our budget. Meetings and education have \$7,000 for rent, zoom, and DEI. Technology and communication have \$4,650. Voter Services has \$6,300 for Voter Girl, postcards, coffees, supplies, and more.

Jerry thanked Lisa, Jan, and Marie for their work on the committee putting together an excellent, balanced, and exciting budget. He also thanked Joan Gilson who helped behind the scenes.

*Adoption of the budget*

Lisa Kuhnke moved to adopt the fiscal year 2023-24 budget. There was one clarifying question about why future grants were not included in the budget, and Jerry explained that when grants come in they have a specific purpose and it takes time for the board to make a plan to use the funds. Adoption of the 2023-24 fiscal year budget was voted on by members. All voters approved, and the budget was adopted.

## **Previously Adopted Positions**

Existing positions have been adopted and updated locally since our League began in 1952. Members can find our position statements on our website. This vote reaffirms our League's commitment to advocate these positions which were adopted after careful study. Richard Pund made a motion to re-adopt the existing positions and Laurel Burchfield seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by general consent.

## **Local programs**

There are no proposed or non-recommended studies for this year. If there are suggestions for study topics and leaders, please hold those for directions to the board.



## Nominations and Elections

Janet Milkovich thanked chair Mary Lou Jaramillo and the nominating committee members Robyn Hart, Marie Hernandez, and Kathleen Morrow for their hard work. Kathleen presented the nominated slate of officers:

- Co-Presidents – Janet Milkovich and Connie Taylor (1-year term)
- Vice President – Jennifer Day (1-year term)
- Treasurer - Unfilled (1 year remaining)
- Secretary – Harry Bognich (2-year term)
- Membership – Nancy Allen (1-year term)\*
- Voter Registration – Ann Schuster, Thomas Stroud, and Anne Stroud (2- year term)
- Voter Information – Marie Hernandez (2-year term)
- Nominating Committee for 2023 – Unfilled

\*Per the League’s Bylaws, the Membership Chair is elected in the even years for a 2-year term.

Mary Lou Jaramillo has been appointed as acting treasurer and will work with a committee to fill the one year remaining.

The board will appoint five members to the nominating committee.

Janet asked for any other nominations on the floor. Hearing no objections, the slate was nominated by acclamation.

## Directions to the Board of Directors

Connie Taylor, as newly elected Co-President, joined Janet to preside over the remainder of the meeting.

Connie called for directions to the board. Members were reminded to use a microphone and that they had three minutes to state their direction to the board, including a suggested leader of any proposed study.

- Claire Reagan - Odd years are often considered of lower priority to the voting population. The phrase “odd years are off years” needs to go away. Odd years are election years! There are over 90 municipal offices up for election in Johnson County this year. These governing bodies make extremely significant decisions. Any efforts that our board and league can do to message that odd years are election years would be greatly appreciated.

Connie thanked Claire for her thoughtful remarks. The board will review this direction at an upcoming meeting.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, Connie Taylor adjourned the meeting at 10:43 am.

Submitted by,

*Danielle Keller*

Danielle Keller  
LWVJoCo Acting Secretary

Approved by,

*Deb Scott*

Deb Scott  
Annual Minutes  
Committee Chair

Approved by,

*Robyn Hart*

Robyn Hart  
Annual Minutes  
Committee

Approved by,

*Juliet Sinclair*

Juliet Sinclair  
Annual Minutes  
Committee

## Officer and Committee Reports

### Presidents

Janet Milkovich and Connie Taylor

Looking back over the past 12 months, we have much to celebrate. We applaud every League member who worked to defend democracy and engage voters!

While the political arena and the world were in a state of flux, the League of Women Voters of Johnson County (LWVJoCo) rose above the fray and found new ways of reaching out to voters through our quality Saturday morning programs, candidate meet-and-greets and staffed registration information tables.

Take a look at these highlights:

- The June 3, 2023 “Gun Safety Impact on Public Health” program drew the largest audience with 85 attendees and 34 views on YouTube. In the weeks prior, we partnered with Grandparents for Gun Safety to ask the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners as well as local municipalities in Johnson County to proclaim June 2, 2023 as Gun Safety Awareness Day.
- We reimagined our Hospitality Committee as they greeted us with smiles, warm beverages and breakfast foods in our new home at Shawnee Mission Unitarian Universalist Church (SMUUCH) in Lenexa.
- Members generously donated nonperishable food items for the SMUUCH FUUD food pantry at our September, October and November meetings. As a result, residents experiencing food scarcity had access to a greater quantity and variety of shelf-stable foods.
- September’s program on the state of immigration in the United States and Kansas included a call to action. Attendees were encouraged to contact federal senators and representatives in support of the Afghan Adjustment Act.
- The League’s presence in the community was remarkable! Our voter registration team connected with potential voters at **23** area locations this year, communicated with over **1,100** people in the community and distributed **900** pieces of election literature, some newly available in Spanish as well as English. Volunteers put in over **250** hours to support of these efforts. In keeping with our League’s commitment to DEI, we participated in numerous cross-cultural voter engagement opportunities and cultivated relationships with local community colleges and places of worship.
- Team leaders are always looking for ways to improve the outcomes of our events. For example, the voter information team discovered that more candidates from both parties were willing to participate in meet-and-greets than in candidate forums. This became a win-win for candidates, elected officials and voters who prefer direct one-on-one conversations. Throughout the election cycle, the voter information team hosted eight events with more than 70 volunteers and engaged nearly 2,000 voters. The team organized five postcard-writing parties with 29 volunteers and sent more than 2,000 postcards about the importance of voting in local elections to Wyandotte County voters.
- Thanks to the tremendous success of our Vote No campaign for the August 2022 primary, the advocacy team was relaunched this year, focusing on key issues in the Kansas Legislature. Our team has already begun sending weekly advocacy informative email with specific calls-to-action.
- We continued our partnership with KKFI and League of Women Voters of Kansas City/Jackson-Clay-Platte Counties for a legislative preview forum and produced more than 12 public service announcements on voting, the League and legislative activities.

## **New and continued collaborations**

Collaborations are essential to our success and help us expand our reach in the communities. Over the past 12 months, we partnered with the following organizations:

- Girl Scouts
- Mainstream Civic Engagement
- Voter Rights Network of Wyandotte County
- Loud Light
- NAACP
- ACLU
- Equality Kansas
- KKFI in partnership with LWV of Kansas City/Jackson-Clay-Platte Counties
- El Centro

New collaborations include:

- Grandparents for Gun Safety
- Olathe Teen Council
- Latino Leadership Network
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
- 6 Degrees of Activation

## **Statewide impacts**

LWVJoCo member Richard Pund chaired a two-year study on election methods. Beginning at the LWVK Council meeting in April 2022, Richard led the careful study of existing Kansas election laws, issues with plurality voting and alternative election methods, such as ranked-choice voting and proportional representation, among others. LWVJoCo members voted yes in a concurrent meeting. The culmination of his team's work will be up for approval at this year's LWVK Council meeting.

## **Internal priorities**

**Leadership development.** We updated the Leaders Manual to provide a firm foundation of expectations for job descriptions and policies. We joined Nonprofit Connect to enhance or strengthen leadership skills. It is also a useful tool for recruiting board members and new leaders. LWVJoCo will have two to three leadership slots from a grant LWVK received from the Kansas Leadership Center in Wichita. We continued documenting our processes in earnest as a means of leadership succession planning and development.

**Change.** Change happens as the result of local, state or national elections, whether it's a new administration or new governing board. For 103 years, the League of Women Voters has been nimble and open to responding to and creating change as needed. Stay tuned for news from LWVUS about expected organizational changes.

## **Our teams**

We're incredibly thankful for all the work our teams have done. Thank you to our board of directors: Jennifer Day, vice president; Mary Lou Jaramillo, treasurer; Harry Bognich, secretary; Nancy Allen, membership; Diana Carney, communications; Ann Schuster, Anne Stroud and Tom Stroud, voter

registration; and Marie Hernandez, voter information. We're thankful for Debbie Kitchin for all her technology insights and leadership. Thank you to all our volunteers for reaching new heights as we continue to defend democracy and empower voters.

## Vice President

Jennifer Day

The major responsibility of the vice president is to cultivate relationships with speakers from a wide field of interests and then to plan and carry out programs offered at monthly meetings and special events throughout the year. Member input garnered from the annual survey and the Local League Position Handbook influenced the times and topics of the programs, with expressed interests in election integrity, immigration policy and the public vs private school funding debate, to name a few, all helping form the program schedule for the year.

We had our first few programs at varying locations throughout the county as leadership worked on a lease agreement with the Shawnee Mission Unitarian Universalist Church (SMUUCH) in Lenexa that created a centralized and consistent meeting location for our members as of September.

### Short details of the programs

Saturday morning, April 1, 2023: School Funding Accountability to Kansas Students. Speakers: Liz Meitl, teacher, USD 500; Scott Rothschild, communications editor, KASB; David Smith, Shawnee Mission School District. Moderator: Rachel Mipro, Kansas Reflector.

70 attended, and 100 views on YouTube (170)

Saturday morning, May 6, 2023: Focus on Your Voice. Speakers: Lori Curtis Luther, city manager for Overland Park; David Westbrook, active volunteer in education; Liz Ruback, assistant to the Olathe mayor. Moderator: Kyle Palmer, Shawnee Mission Post.

61 attended, and 34 views on YouTube (95)

Saturday morning, June 3, 2023: Gun Safety Impact on Public Health. Speakers: Judy Sherry, Grandparents for Gun Safety; Mark McCormick, award-winning opinion journalist and director of strategic communications of ACLU. Moderator: Jennifer Day.

85 attended, and 34 views on YouTube (119)

Saturday morning, Sept. 9, 2023: Immigration crisis? What is the state of immigration in the U.S. and Kansas in the 21st century? Speakers: Rekha Sharma-Crawford, attorney who specializes in immigration; Kim Steinmetz, director of international and immigrant student services at Johnson County Community College; Joan Kelly, community integration director at Jewish Vocational Services. Moderator: Mary Sanchez, reporter for Kansas City, PBS.

82 attended (no YouTube recording available due to panelist request)

Saturday morning, Oct. 7, 2023: What's On Your Ballot? Vote Local! Speakers: Paul Lyons, Overland Park City Council; April Boyd-Noronha, Shawnee Mission Public School District board member; Lindsay Ford, executive director of The Voter Network. Moderator: Janet Milkovich.

53 attended, and 50 views on YouTube (103)

Saturday morning, Nov. 4, 2023: Hot Topics: Engage, Interact & Collaborate. Membership, DEI and Voter Information small group discussions led by current team leads.

50 attended (no YouTube due to in-person attendance required for participation)

Saturday morning, Feb. 3, 2024: March Presidential Preference Primary: Why? How? Who? A presentation explaining the March 19, 2024, presidential preference primary in the state of Kansas.

Report was created before the event occurred, so no attendee info is available.

	Attendees	YouTube Views	Total
<b>Total for 2023 – 24 Programs</b>	401	218	619

## Voter Registration

Ann Schuster, Thomas Stroud and Anne Stroud

The purpose of the Voter Registration (VR) team is to promote political responsibility and active participation in government through activities related to, but not limited to, elections. Due to a pending court case being reviewed by the Kansas Supreme Court and the Kansas Court of Appeals, and following the recommendations of our state and national Leagues, we are, at this time, not permitted to distribute registration materials. We continue to assist potential voters by directing them to nonpartisan sites where they can locate registration materials (such as Vote411.org, ksvotes.org, and via QR codes).

Once again we proved that no year is truly an election “off-year.” Our VR team was busier than ever with participation in a wide variety of events, spanning both Johnson and Wyandotte counties. We connected with potential voters at **23** area locations this year, communicated with more than **1,100** people in the community and distributed **900** pieces of election literature, some newly available in Spanish as well as English. Volunteers put in over **250** hours in support of these efforts.

The team is most proud of our efforts to reach out and educate voters and voters-to-be spanning a range of ages from the Voter Girl Initiative with elementary-age Girl Scouts to persons residing in senior living facilities. In keeping with our League’s DEI Initiative, we participated in cross-cultural voter engagement opportunities including a Juneteenth celebration, a Latino cultural festival in the KCK Argentine neighborhood, a Pride Festival and a community-wide Climate Summit. We cultivated relationships with local community colleges and places of worship and attended other events.

With a large number of local elections held in 2023, we partnered with the Voter Information team at legislative coffees, library events and candidate information events. The fact that voter turnout was over 26% in our county is a testament to the work of our chapter in reaching and educating the community. VR Co-Chair Tom Stroud submitted a grant to further our efforts with younger voters. We received notification in mid-January that we had been awarded a \$500 grant from LWVUS

2024 is providing an unparalleled opportunity for VR to increase its outreach, and we're confident that the team is up to the challenge. We have already had a presence at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration at Village Church and were invited to be part of a panel on "Turning Eligible Voters into Registered Voters" by the Grandparents for Gun Safety organization.

Although we still await a ruling from the courts on our voter registration efforts, we look forward to engaging with an even greater number of our Johnson County neighbors in the coming year.

## Voter Information: Legislative Coffees

Marie Hernandez

Legislative Coffees for 2024 are scheduled as follows:

- Jan. 27: Corinth Library (Prairie Village)
- Feb. 10: Bonner Springs Library
- Feb. 17: Lenexa City Center Library
- Feb. 24: Blue Valley Library (Southern Overland Park)
- March 23: Monticello Library (Western Shawnee)
- April 20: Gardner Library
- TBD: KCK Library

## Voter Information: Get Out The Vote

Marie Hernandez

We identified 10,000 voters who voted in August of 2022 who had not voted before and did not vote in November of 2022. While we could not contact the entire list due to cost, we focused on a portion of the list. We sent them personalized handwritten postcards and delivered handwritten door knockers. Our message was that local elections were important, and we supplied voting information.

We held five postcard parties at Johnson County Libraries. We furnished stickers, markers, cards and stamps.

Alpha Kappa Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta sororities had private postcard parties to complete the project. Other League members took postcards to their homes and groups.

Date	Location	Volunteers
9/22/2023	Blue Valley Library	9
9/27/2023	Lenexa Library	8
10/03/2023	Corinth Library	11
10/5/2023	Cedar Roe Library	8
10/14/2023	Monticello Library	11

We still do not have the results of which of our voters actually voted. However, we do have a breakdown of the age, gender and county of the voters to whom we sent postcards.

County	Postcards	Door Knockers	Age						Sex			Total People
			18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65+	Unknown	Male	Female	Unknown	
Johnson	669	546	785	227	140	48	14	1	503	710	2	1,215
Wyandotte	1,352	0	709	353	202	69	18	1	436	913	3	1,352
Total People	2,021	546	1,494	580	342	117	32	2	939	1,623	5	2,567

#### Recommendation:

We think we should mail a similar number of postcards this coming year. The focus may differ, but members were enthusiastic about the project, and we feel we made a difference.

## Voter Information: Candidate Information Events

Marie Hernandez

**Overview:** LWVJoCo co-hosted 11 nonpartisan forums with 13+ partner organizations.

Event	Date	Location	Volunteers	Attendees In Person/ Live/ YouTube	Partners
Veto Session	4/25/2023	Central Library	5	25/15/29	Mainstream, ACLU, Loud Light, Equality Kansas, 6 Degrees of Activation
JOCO Primary Meet and Greet Lenexa, Merriam, Overland Park, Prairie Village City Council	7/8/2023	Johnson County Central Library	15	20	Mainstream, Alpha Kappa Alpha
Olathe Primary Meet and Greet City Council and School Board	7/10/2023	Olathe Community Center	12	60	Mainstream, Alpha Kappa Alpha
WYCO Primary Meet and Greet BPU, Register of Deeds, UG Commissioner	7/17/2023	WYCO South Library	14	60	Mainstream, Alpha Kappa Alpha
Dance the Vote	8/18/2023	Third Friday Art Walk WYCO	1	300	Voter Rights Network of Wyandotte County
JCCC Trustees	8/28/2023	JCCC Hudson Hall	10	90/na/525	Johnson County Community College Faculty Association

Event	Date	Location	Volunteers	Attendees In Person/ Live/ YouTube	Partners
Bonner/Edwardsville City and School Board Candidate Meet and Greet	9/21/2023	Bonner Springs Library	3	30/na/1279	Bonner Springs Library, Bonner NAACP
Dance the Vote	9/15/2023	Third Friday Art Walk WYCO	2		Voter Rights Network of Wyandotte County
Blue Valley School Board Meet and Greet	9/30/2023	Blue Valley Library	5	30/na/772	Johnson County Library
Olathe General Meet and Greet City Council and School Board	10/4/2023	Olathe Community Center	9	60/na/1929	Alpha Kappa Alpha, Latino Leadership Network, Olathe Teen Council, Mainstream Civic Engagement
Gardner/Edgerton School Board Meet and Greet	10/28/2023	Gardner Library	2	30/na/187	Johnson County Library

#### **Recommendation:**

We believe the meet-and-greet format is successful and intend to continue with this format in the coming year.

We believe that increasing our partnership with Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, the Latino Leadership Network and the Olathe Teen Council will be an important part of our outreach in the coming year.

## **Voter Information: The Voter Girl Project**

Marie Hernandez

We held the event on Jan. 28, 2023. We had three classes of 75 again this year. They completed their Democracy Badge. Johnson County Elections Commissioner Fred Sherman and his staff provided a mock election and canvas. Kansas Supreme Court Justice Karen Arnold-Burger discussed the judiciary with the scouts. Councilwoman Ryana Parks-Shaw of Kansas City, Missouri, discussed local government with the scouts.

### **College Activities**

Event	Date	League Volunteers	Attendees	Partners
National Registration Day	9/18/2023	4	300	JCCC
Constitution Day	9/19/2023	2	80	JCCC

Note: Our postcard project touched 1,494 voters of college age.



# Voter Information: Voter to Voter

Raquel Koser, Leader

## Overview

In the 2023 election cycle, 1,937 ambassadors on 481 teams participated in Voter to Voter (V2V). Seven Leagues in Kansas sponsored teams, including Johnson County, Manhattan-Riley County, Topeka-Shawnee County, Emporia, Lawrence-Douglas County, Leavenworth County and Kansas.

This is LWVJoCo's sixth year participating in Voter to Voter, a project of The Voter Network. V2V relies on relational organizing. Volunteer ambassadors connect with people they already know, such as family, friends and coworkers, and encourage them to vote.

Ambassadors are asked to get 10 people they know to vote. Ambassadors have access to the V2V database, where they can look up the voting records of acquaintances and track their progress as they take steps to vote. Ambassadors provide voting information and follow up as needed with their friends and family throughout the election season. Ambassadors are provided training in using the online database and can access online resources with voting information and motivational tips.

## Our stats

### 2023 August Primary V2V Summary

Statewide, Voter to Voter had 481 teams, with 1,937 ambassadors reaching about 33,500 voters. Johnson County had approximately 160,500 voters eligible to vote, with a turnout rate of 10.46%.

### LWVJoCo stats

37 ambassadors, 19 were active.

560 voters registered, but no data for the number of voters eligible to vote.

3% (19) voted, 0% voted by mail.

### 2023 November General V2V Summary

Statewide, Voter to Voter had 481 teams with 1,937 ambassadors. In Johnson County, 455,894 registered voters were eligible to vote. The voter turnout was 26.74%, marking the highest ever for a local general election in the county.

### LWVJoCo stats

37 ambassadors, 19 were active.

560 voters and 44% (244) were infrequent voters.

53% (295) overall voted, 15% (85) voted by mail.

### Most active ambassadors

Name	Infrequent Voters	# Voters	Primary Voters	General Voters
Leslie Mark	52%	65	0	29 (45%)
Janet Milkovich	7%	15	0	12 (80%)
Ann Norbury	31%	59	0	41 (69%)

Gene Troehler	25%	48	4 (8%)	34 (71%)
Raquel Koser	61%	18	5 (28%)	12 (67%)
Karin Leacox	60%	10	0	5 (50%)
Amber Stenger	40%	10	0	6 (60%)
Kathleen Morrow	31%	12	2 (15%)	5 (38%)
Diana Carney	40%	5	0	4 (80%)
Kathy Minges	25%	12	1 (8%)	9 (75%)
Deborah Kitchin	64%	11	0	10 (91%)
Marie Hernandez	0%	3	1 (33%)	3 (100%)
Tanya Honderick	58%	19	1 (5%)	5 (26%)

## Voter Information: [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org)

### Mary Coffman, Leader

League of Women Voters US provides this powerful online tool to allow voters to learn about and compare candidates specific to their voting precinct. Mary Coffman headed the Johnson County effort. The team included Jamie Kluesner, Karin Leacox, Lindsay Myers, Amy Hinrichs, Sarah Sullivan and Ruth Cain. The committee was assisted by Voter Information leaders Marie Hernandez and Deborah Kitchin.

The Vote411 team collected the email and contact information of the candidates from the election office, the State of Kansas Secretary of State website, Smartvan, candidate websites, texts, and Facebook and Facebook Messenger. The team wrote and submitted our questions for the candidates to LWV of Kansas to post on Vote411.org. We received all but 18 of the 281 candidates' email addresses.

	Johnson County	Wyandotte County
<b>Primary Candidates</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Primary Races</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>General Candidates</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>General Races</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Total Candidates (Primary and General Races)</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Candidate Participation</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Candidate Participation Percent</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>20%</b>

	Johnson County	Wyandotte County
<b>Voter Ballot Lookups (Kansas Ballot Lookups 24,745)</b>	<b>2,637</b>	<b>1,681</b>

Our volunteers emailed and texted the Johnson County candidates several times to encourage participation. We asked our members to check Vote411.org and reach out to candidates on their ballot who had not participated. At our Candidate Meet and Greets, we discussed Vote411.org with participants. We emailed the party offices for both counties.

The main challenge continues to be to get as many candidates as possible to respond to the questions so that Vote411.org can be as informative and thorough as possible. Unfortunately, many candidates opted NOT to respond to the questions.

Marie Hernandez and Debbie Kitchin helped administer the state's Vote411.org process. Looking at our results at the end of the election, we noticed many of the voters across the state who went to Vote411.org to find that their ballots were empty. The state process is to have each League claim their local area. As a result, much of the state is left empty. Our League manages information for Johnson County and Wyandotte County.

### **Recommendations**

For the next election cycle, LWVJoCo should greatly increase its efforts to publicize Vote411.org to its members, who should, in turn, encourage people in their spheres of influence to use the website.

Members should reach out to candidates running for offices in their area and encourage the candidates to complete the survey.

An e-blast should be sent to the membership a month before the primary election with instructions on how to use Vote411.org and a script to use when contacting candidates.

We also recommend that social media platforms (TikTok, Facebook, Instagram) be used to educate voters on the benefits of Vote411.org. The message on the social media platforms should be targeted to the 18- to 30-year-olds.

To provide coverage to more of the state, we will include Anderson, Franklin and Miami counties. We may not be able to obtain email addresses for these candidates, but we can provide the names of candidates on their ballots.

The League should work with the legislature to get a law passed that requires candidates to provide an email address. The League of Women Voters of North Dakota worked with their legislators to pass a [bill](#) to do this.

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

Kay Heley

**Strategic plan discussion:** Kay Heley and Elaine Johnson met with the board to discuss expanding accountability for the DEI goals (more diverse membership and more partnerships) to the entire League. The board approved the change.

**DEI Committee goals:** Expand our members' comfort level with DEI information. Help our meetings be welcoming. Increase our League's institutional knowledge and practice of DEI principles.

**Budget expenditures:** \$531 spent from \$2000 budgeted. Funds were spent on getting four voter information documents translated and printed back-to-back Spanish/English: Voting in Local Elections (JoCo and WyCo) and Voting Info for New Voters (JoCo and WyCo).

**Committee members:** Kay Heley, Mary Lou Jaramillo, Elaine Johnson (until Fall 2023), Marie Hernandez, Maggie Roby, Ann Sanders, Tonya Simpson-Hines, Farah Marhusin, Maureen Hale, Angela Thornton-Millard and Rebecca Crowl. We met monthly by Zoom January through October 2023.

**DEI Moments for The VOTER newsletter:** 12 moments submitted by five different committee members.

**Encouraging committee members to participate in other committees:**

Mary Lou Jaramillo (Membership), Marie Hernandez (Voter Information), Kay Heley (Voter Registration), Tonya Simpson-Hines (Voter Information), Elaine Johnson (was on the Communications team until her resignation). Committees were encouraged to utilize the DEI lens and questions as decisions were made and events planned. Having voter information in Spanish and English (back-to-back rather than separately) was encouraged and facilitated.

**Presentations/programs/joint activities:**

1. Committee members assisted with the September immigration program.
2. Angela and Kay led the small group session on equity at the November program.
3. Kay participated in two voter information events with Advocates for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation (AIRR) in September and October (along with another League member, Patty Dykman).

**Challenges:** Need a new committee chair/co-chair for 2024-25 who can attend board meetings. We will be discussing the future of our League's DEI efforts going forward at the 1/11/24 DEI Committee Zoom meeting with the president.

## Communications

Diana Carney

Members of the Communications Committee continued working diligently throughout 2023 to keep our members and the community aware of League programs and civic engagement opportunities. Committee members in 2023 were Heidi Matthews (chair), Karin Leacox (one-woman social media team), Kathleen Morrow (member and committee profiles), Mitchell Krasnopoler (webmaster), Elaine Johnson and Diana Carney (The VOTER editor/creator), Tinna Hung (e-blast editor/creator) and Amber

Stenger (PR/media support and advisor). This past year, the team researched our most effective outlets, so that we can make the most of our resources going into the 2024 election.

In 2023, our committee generated an average of one-plus social media posts per day, produced The VOTER newsletter every month, created 25 e-blast mailings, provided extensive training to new volunteers and assisted with other “on demand” requests.

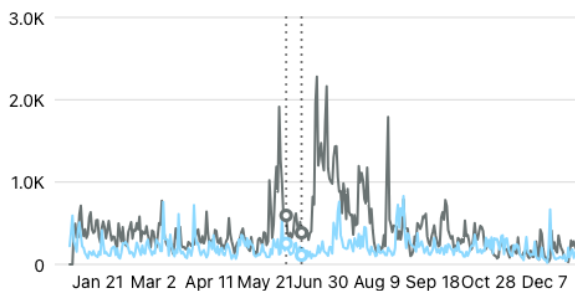
Social media: Our Facebook reach is up 63.2% over this time last year, although we did not have the spikes we had during the 2023 primary season. We now have over 2,500 followers. Our Instagram following is nearly 600, and allows us to reach a younger audience; the largest percentage of followers are ages 35 to 44 on this platform.

Email: Our open rates continue to be well above the national average of 20%. Rates for The VOTER are 78.5% for members and 57% for non-members. For the e-blasts, the open rates are 76.8% for members and 60% for non-members.

#### Reach

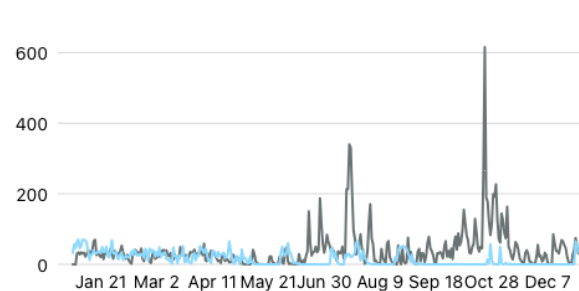
##### Facebook reach ①

17,625 ↓ 59.5%



##### Instagram reach ①

456 ↓ 88.9%



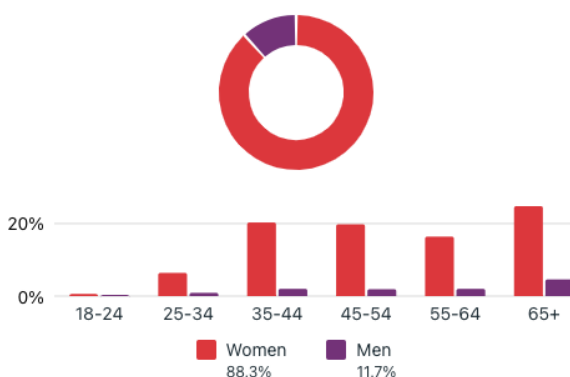
##### Facebook followers ①

2,508

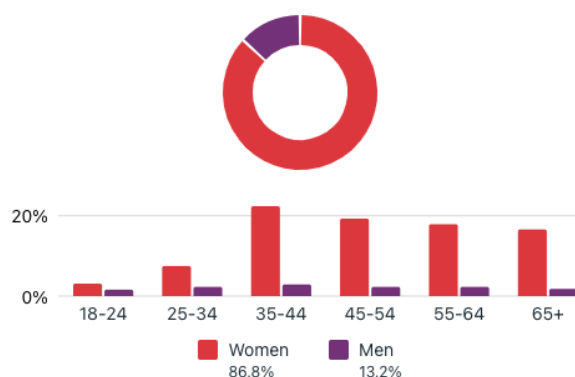
##### Instagram followers ①

599

##### Age & gender ①



##### Age & gender ①



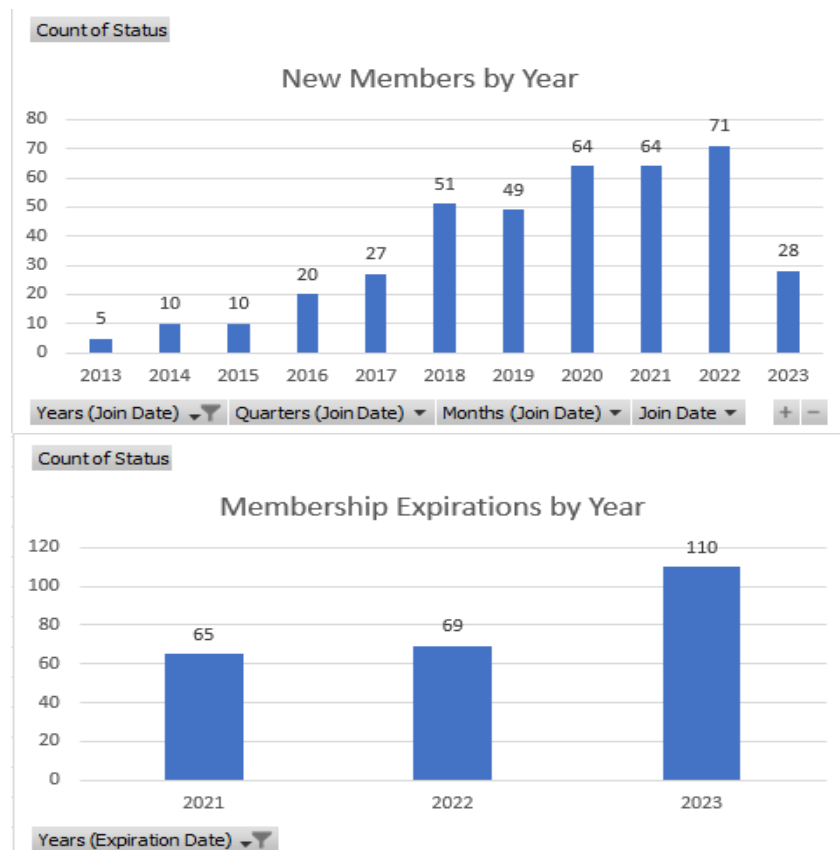
# Membership

Nancy Allen

In 2023, LWVJoCo gained 28 new members. Members who allowed their membership to expire also increased over 2023. We ended the year with 203 members. Many factors may have played a role including:

1. We are in a post-pandemic environment.
2. It was a local, rather than national, election year.
3. There wasn't a decisive ballot measure like the "Vote No" initiative of 2022.

See the charts below for more details.

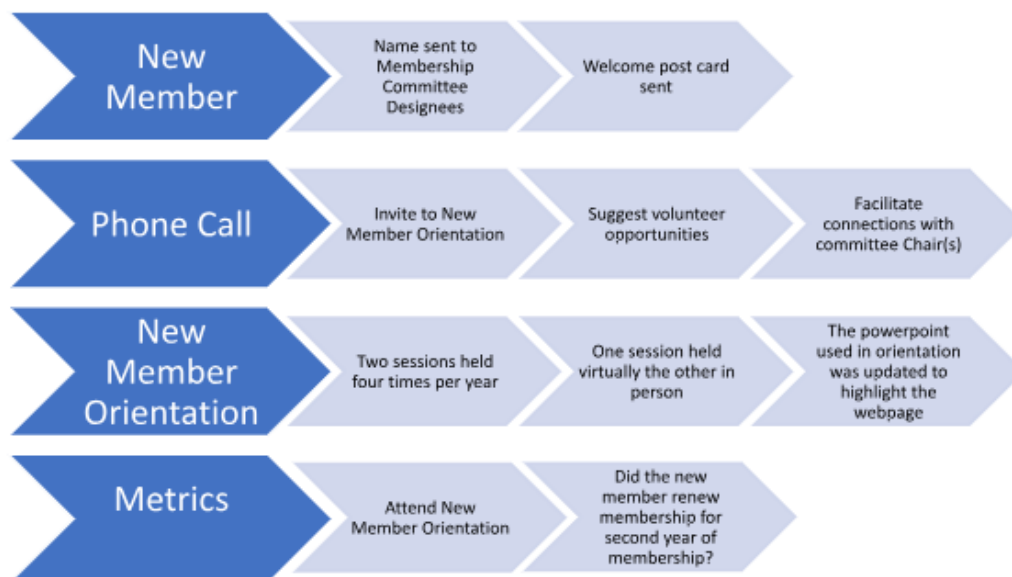


Sponsored memberships were put on hold due to the LWVUS Transformation Plan. The national League will be changing the dues structure of all Leagues beginning in January 2025. At this time, we are unsure if sponsored memberships will continue.

The board requested and completed a Call-A-Thon in August 2023. The primary goal was to call active members to invite them to the September inaugural meeting in our new location SMUUCH. The Call-A-Thon revealed members' age/illness/caregiver circumstances that limit participation in League events. Our members are also involved in groups and activities that limit participation in League initiatives. In 2022 a conversation occurred with 36% of current members, while in 2023 a conversation occurred with 21% of current members.

The Membership team focused on new members and developed an onboarding process. We discussed the pros and cons of being "assigned mentors." There was consensus that mentor/mentee assignments

are often awkward and not long-lasting. The graphic below displays the onboarding process developed by the Membership Committee. Strategic Priority #2, Goal 1.2. expands the mentoring program for new members.



LWVJoCo sponsored two events in 2023, the Summer Picnic and the Holiday Social. Both were successful events and supported engaging members as many League stories were shared, along with personal connections.

Goals for the upcoming year include:

- Exploring and piloting an LWVJoCo book club. Jan 14, 2024, will be the first planning meeting.
  - Strategic Priority #2, Goal 1.5, Provide opportunities for small groups of members to engage.
- Encourage every member to carry a business card with a QR code to the League's membership sign-up page. League members are our strongest ambassadors and recruiters.
  - Strategic Priority #2, Goal 1.6, Grow committee leadership.
- Continue working on a draft membership chair training manual to smooth transition to new leadership every other year.
  - Strategic Priority #3 Goal 1.1, Create a committee to develop a draft leadership succession plan to present to the board.

## Observer Corps

Eileen Marshall

The Observer Corps consists of members who volunteer to observe public meetings of elected bodies and write a short report for our chapter newsletter. Our purpose is twofold:

1. To provide a visible and consistent presence in public meetings, reinforcing the message that the public watches and cares about the actions of elected bodies; and
2. To educate our members about relevant actions taken by elected bodies.

We need more observers on our team and are having difficulty finding interested people. We currently have the following 17 observers signed up for 10 meetings; these are the same numbers reported last year.

#### County Boards

Johnson County Commission	Lenore Rowe, Kathleen Morrow, Joan Gilson, Jerry Gilson, Rebecca James
JOCO Commission on Aging	open
JOCO Library Board	Karen Wulfkuhle (looking for replacement)
JOCO Mental Health	Mary and Harry Bognich
JOCO Parks & Recreation	Ada Niedenthal
Water One	Annette Becker
JCCC Board of Trustees	open

#### School Boards

Blue Valley	Ann Schuster
Olathe	Cindy Hicks
Shawnee Mission	open

#### City Councils

Leawood	Alleen VanBebber, Mary Grimes, Lynn Hardy
Lenexa	Ellen Miller
Prairie Village	Eileen Marshall

We have **openings for JCCC Board of Trustees, JOCO Commission on Aging, Shawnee Mission School Board, Board of County Commissioners (shared) and Unified Government of Wyandotte County, as well as any city council not listed above.** Chapter leaders are always on the lookout for potential observers.

## Speakers Bureau

Kathleen Morrow

#### **Presentations:**

The following groups requested and received a presentation from the LWVJoCo Speakers Bureau during this reporting period.

- 3/21/23 Village Shalom-Overland Park Speaker: Harry Bognich
- 10/10/23 Business & Professional Woman Bonner Springs Speaker: Harry Bognich
- 10/21/23 Daughters of the American Revolution Lenexa Speaker: Alleen Van Bebber



### **Available speakers:**

The following LWVJoCo members have given speeches in the past and/or expressed interest in continuing:

Harry Bognich  
Karin Leacox  
Marsha Ratzel  
Ann Sanders  
Linda Seiner  
Victoria Smith

### **Current PowerPoint presentations**

The current Speakers Bureau curricula includes seven to 10 PowerPoint presentations covering the history of women's suffrage and development and activities of the League, locally and nationally, during its 100+ years of work. We will continue to update these presentations and develop new ones. The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, Medicaid expansion, and Kansas and US legislative efforts to suppress the vote are issues that will be addressed.

### **Future program promotion**

Although the Speakers Bureau is posted on our website, we need to expand promotion to new areas and groups who have demonstrated low voter turnout in recent elections. We plan to offer Zoom as a presentation option. Focus sites for promotion will be identified in cooperation with LWVJoCo Voter Services program and through suggestions of general membership.

## Great Decisions

Rebecca James, Group Leader

Great Decisions is a program started by the Foreign Policy Association to allow citizens to gather, study an article from the Great Decisions Briefing Book, and discuss international issues, problems and solutions. The 2023 LWVJoCo group had 23 participants registered, with an average attendance of 18. As several of our members travel, the group preference was to continue on Zoom. The season ran from Feb. 6 to May 15 for 90 minutes on alternate Monday evenings. Subjects covered included energy geopolitics, war crimes, the US/China relationship, economic warfare, politics in Latin America, global famine, Iran at the crossroads and climate migration. Each of the eight sessions was facilitated by a different participant and the discussion was always thoughtful and lively with active participation from everyone. The 2024 season starts on Feb. 5 and runs through May 13.

## Hospitality

Lynn Hardy

- On July 20, 2023, Co-Presidents Janet Milkovich and Connie Talyor called a meeting with interested members to re-envision LWVJoCo's hospitality team.
- The results of that meeting: Mary Bognich, Mary Estrada, Jean Frankel and Lynn Hardy volunteered to be part of the team. This team does not have a "committee chair;" it functions as a team.
- Lynn has assumed the role of communications coordination.

- The team organized and conducted three monthly meetings, successfully providing food items and coffee prior to each meeting.
- We are using the website for members to sign up to bring treats for each meeting.
- Mary Bognich and her husband, Harry, are graciously continuing to make coffee at each monthly meeting.
- Mary purchased a new coffee pot as the one provided by SMUUCH was somewhat unreliable (cord was lost), and the new one is a quick brew that enables better service for the members.
- All team members are willing to continue their service on the hospitality team into 2024.
- There are no commitments beyond 2024.

*Thank you to the entire Hospitality team: Lynn Hardy, Mary Estrada, Jean Frankel, Mary Bognich, Harry Bognich and Mary Grimes.*

## Advocacy

Danielle Keller

The LWVJoCo Advocacy committee was reestablished in the spring of 2023 with the appointment of Laurel Burchfield and Danielle Keller as co-chairs.

Initial planning meetings were held to develop a mission statement and committee goals.

Mission statement:

The LWVJoCo Advocacy Committee will:

- **educate** on issues and advocacy methods,
- **activate** new and existing advocates, and
- **collaborate** with like-minded organizations to expand our reach to empower voters and defend democracy.

Short-term goals:

**Educate:** Create short educational, evergreen videos about the legislative process and ways to be involved.

**Activate:** Create and/or share easy actionable items on LWVJoCo advocacy priorities.

**Collaborate:** In order to not duplicate efforts, identify like-minded organizations and coordinate information sharing and advocacy opportunities.

Long-term vision:

**Educate:** Utilize existing LWVK monitoring infrastructure to facilitate new communications on the legislative process. Increase awareness regarding concerns with accountability and transparency during regular and special sessions.

**Activate:** Increase public demand for candidates, legislators and the legislative process to represent Kansas voters. Empower advocates with tools and opportunities to hold their candidates and elected officials accountable and call for legislative change.

**Collaborate:** Identify and support Legislative Champions (bi-cameral, bi-partisan) who prioritize and demonstrate transparency and accountability. Engage with media and other organizations to reach new audiences.

Momentum slowed during the summer and fall due to unforeseen personal circumstances for both co-chairs.

In an effort to create member engagement opportunities for the upcoming 2024 Legislative Session, the winter was spent drafting a series of weekly “Advocate Actions” to be emailed to all local League members covering topics like: finding your Kansas representative and senator, submitting testimony to a committee and connecting with issue-specific advocacy groups.

## Proposed Revisions to Bylaws

The board completed a review and update of the Leaders Manual, which was last updated in 2019. The 2019 Leaders Manual had inconsistencies in wording of job titles as well as job descriptions for the board of directors. Changes in terminology align more closely with bylaws and job descriptions of several local and state Leagues. Further changes in terminology reflect a focus on goal-oriented approach in line with our strategic plan.

As a result, the board approves and recommends the following changes be made to the bylaws:

Article V, Section 1, amendment as follows:

Sec. 1. Selection, Qualifications and Term. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of LWVJoCo, four directors elected at the annual meeting and not more than four directors appointed by the Board (collectively, the “Board”). Two directors shall be elected at the annual meeting in the even-numbered years: the Communications *Chair Coordinator* and the Membership *Chair Coordinator*. Two directors shall be elected at the annual meeting in the odd-numbered years: the Voter Registration *Chair & Follow up Coordinator*; and the Voter Information *Chair Coordinator*. All directors shall be voting members of LWVJoCo. Each director elected at an annual meeting shall serve for a term of two years or until each director’s successor has been elected. All elected directors take office on April 1 following election or immediately after the annual meeting, whichever is later. Each appointed director shall serve until the next annual meeting. Vacancies other than the Presidency may be filled by vote of the remaining members of the Board and for the balance of the unexpired term. Any director’s position may be held simultaneously by two persons who agree to share responsibility for that position and are elected or appointed as co-directors.

Article V, Section 2, amendment as follows:

Sec. 2. The Communications *Chair Coordinator* Specific Duties.

The Communications *Chair Coordinator* shall create or cause to be created communications authorized by the Board so as to increase the visibility and maintain a year-round public/community presence for LWVJoCo, and shall create and maintain media relationships.

Article V, Section 3, amendment as follows:

Sec. 3. The Membership *Chair Coordinator* Specific Duties.

The Membership *Chair Coordinator* shall coordinate the recruitment of new members, including developing methods to recruit, welcome, and involve new members and prospects, and shall maintain membership lists.

Article V, Section 4, amendment as follows:

Sec. 4. The Voter Registration ~~Chair & Follow-up Coordinator~~ Specific Duties.

The Voter Registration ~~Chair and Follow-up Coordinator~~ works closely with the Voter Information ~~Chair Coordinator~~. Together, they will promote political responsibility and active participation in government through activities related to, but not limited to, elections. He/she will form ~~teams committees~~ to facilitate both voter registration, including at Naturalization ceremonies, and to follow-up with new registrants to increase actual voter turnout.

Article V, Section 5, amendment as follows:

Sec. 5. The Voter Information ~~Chair Coordinator~~ Specific Duties.

The Voter Information ~~Chair Coordinator~~ works closely with the Voter Registration ~~Chair & Follow-up Coordinator~~. He/she oversees providing accurate and unbiased information to the public. The ~~Chair Coordinator~~ plans and oversees all aspects of forums on topical issues, candidate forums, candidate meet and greet activities, legislative forums, etc.

Article V, Section 6, amendment as follows:

Sec. 6. Board Powers.

The Board shall manage and supervise the business, affairs and activities of LWVJoCo, subject to the instructions of the members at the annual meeting. The Board shall select delegates to LWVK's convention and council and to LWVUS's convention. The Board shall accept responsibility for such other matters as the LWVK or LWVUS boards may from time to time delegate to the Board. It shall have the power to create such special ~~teams committees~~ as it deems necessary and shall perform such other duties as specified in these bylaws.

## Narrative Description of Budget Spreadsheets FY 2024-2025

The proposed budget is presented in a slightly different format than previous years with fewer categories and line items. This format provides committee chairs improved tracking of expenses and organizes some expenses under administration and operations. Though the projected budget is \$8,030 less than the 2023-2024 budget, the Voter Registration, Voter Information and Advocacy committees will have the resources needed to fulfill the League's mission.

## Operating Budget FY 2023-2024

### LWV JoCo Operating Budget April 2023 - March 2024

		Approved Budget	YTD thru Dec '23
	<b>INCOME</b>		
Dues		\$ 19,425.00	\$ 9,905.00
Primary		\$ 17,500.00	\$ 9,240.00
Additional		\$ 1,925.00	\$ 665.00
Fundraising		\$ 16,000.00	\$ 8,982.08
Contribution (Member)		\$ 7,000.00	\$ 8,394.08
Donations		\$ 8,000.00	\$ 128.00
Mercandise Sales		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 460.00
Other Income		\$ 1,300.00	\$ 305.18
Name Tags		\$ 100.00	
Unclass. Other Income		\$ 1,200.00	\$ 305.18
Operating Income		\$ 4,005.00	
Cash Reserves		\$ 4,005.00	
Total Income		\$ 40,730.00	\$ 19,192.26
	<b>EXPENSE</b>		
Delegates & Travel		\$ 500.00	\$ 270.00
National			
State		\$ 500.00	\$ 270.00
Events		\$ 2,650.00	\$ 1,156.93
Annual Meeting		\$ 850.00	
Holiday		\$ 750.00	\$ 490.00
Preview/January		\$ 100.00	
Picnic		\$ 600.00	\$ 413.59
Social		\$ 350.00	
Fundraising		\$ 400.00	0
Merchandise cost		\$ 300.00	
Sales Tax		\$ 100.00	
LWV Dues Payments		\$ 14,430.00	\$ 2,650.00
National PMP		\$ 8,880.00	\$ -
Kansas		\$ 5,550.00	\$ 2,650.00
Meetings & Education		\$ 7,000.00	\$ 3,014.31
Committees		\$ 450.00	
Equipment/Supplies		\$ 250.00	\$ 144.00
Gen Meeting Venue Rent		\$ 2,100.00	\$ 1,425.00
Other Venue Zoom		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 59.63
Printing		\$ 600.00	\$ 79.00
Refreshments & Hospitality		\$ 600.00	\$ 454.68
DEI		\$ 2,000.00	\$ 552.00
Operating & Administration		\$ 3,350.00	\$ 822.35
Equipment/Supplies		\$ 300.00	\$ 113.35
PayPal Fees		\$ 200.00	
Financial Compilation		\$ 200.00	
Insurance		\$ 350.00	\$ 300.00

	Name Tags	\$	100.00	
	PO Box	\$	200.00	\$ 194.00
	President/Board	\$	1,000.00	\$ 215.00
	Unclassified (stipend)	\$	1,000.00	
	Promotion/Visibility	\$	1,450.00	\$ 900.00
	Sponsorships	\$	750.00	\$900.00
	Unclassified Promotion	\$	700.00	
	Technology/Communications	\$	4,650.00	\$ 930.30
	Annual Mtg Book	\$	300.00	
	ClubExpress	\$	1,000.00	\$ 639.04
	Printing/Postage	\$	1,300.00	
	Video Recording	\$	1,500.00	\$ 291.26
	Website/Social Media	\$	550.00	
	Voter Services	\$	6,300.00	\$ 2,968.38
	Info/Forums, Coffees	\$	5,300.00	\$ 2,454.25
	Naturalization	\$	300.00	
	Registration Supplies	\$	700.00	\$ 514.13
	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>40,730.00</b>	<b>\$ 12,712.27</b>
	<b>Net Change</b>			<b>\$ 6,479.99</b>

Last half state dues \$2,650 and Nat'l dues \$8,480 will be paid in last quarter.

## Proposed Budget FY 2024-2025

LWV 24/25 JOCO Proposed Budget		
Income		
<b>Dues</b>		
Primary	\$	17,500.00
Additional	\$	700.00
<b>Donations</b>		
Members	\$	10,000.00
Others	\$	3,000.00
From merchandise		\$500.00
<b>Other Sources</b>		
Fr Reserves if needed		\$1,000
<b>Total Income</b>	\$	<b>32,700.00</b>
Expense		
<b>Administration</b>		
Rent	\$	1,200.00
Insurance	\$	375.00
Financial Compilation		\$300.00
National Dues	\$	8,700.00
State Dues	\$	5,200.00
KS Sec of State	\$	50.00
Delegate Fees/Travel	\$	1,600.00
Sponsorships		\$300.00
Parliamentarian	\$	850.00
Annual Mtg Book	\$	300.00
<b>Operations</b>		
Post Office/Mailings	\$	400.00
Equipment	\$	3,100.00
Club Express	\$	1,000.00
Hospitality	\$	270.00
Technology	\$	250.00
<b>Committees</b>		
Membership	\$	750.00
Voter Information	\$	4,705.00
Voter Registration	\$	1,500.00
DEI	\$	500.00
Advocacy	\$	250.00
Program	\$	300.00
Communications	\$	300.00
President Awards	\$	500.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	\$	<b>32,700.00</b>
<b>Net Income/Loss</b>	\$	<b>-</b>

## LWVJoCo Account Balances Dec. 31, 2023

<b>League Accounts</b>	<b>As of 12/31/22</b>	<b>As of 12/31/23</b>
Operating	\$ 41,196.34	\$ 45,610.80
Certificate of Deposit*	\$ 8,964.18	\$ 9,257.47
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 50,160.52</b>	<b>\$ 54,868.27</b>
<b>Souls to the Polls (R)</b>	<b>\$ 2,792.46</b>	
*CD matures 2/16/25 APY 5.15%		

*Thank you to the 2023-2024 Budget Committee: Chair Lisa Kuhnke, Royceann Mather, Mary Sheridan, Mary Lou Jaramillo and Connie Taylor.*



## Local Positions

Positions are member-approved statements of public policy, created after intensive member research and discussion. They serve as the foundation for League advocacy at local, state and national levels. LWVJoCo currently has [47 positions](#).

Our positions fall into three major areas:

Government

Natural Resources

Social Policy

Typical sections of each position include background, statement of position, date approved and/or updated and footnotes. They are essential sources when planning programs and advocating for or against proposed or existing public policies

The LWVUS positions are found [here](#).

## Local Position Statements Update

Alleen VanBebber

LWVJoCo adopts and implements the positions taken by the national and Kansas Leagues. However, it also takes positions on local matters of primary interest to its members and the community at large. LWVJoCo will create a new handbook divided into three general topics: government, natural resources and social policy. Position statements will be indexed under relevant subtopics. A chronological format will show changes to a position statement as it evolved, along with some explanatory notes. Plans for 2024 are for research to locate other early position statements and for the handbook to be divided into two sections: current or standing statements and archived statements. The new handbook is intended to be clear about LWVJoCo's positions on current issues, as well as to provide a historical record of LWVJoCo and the stands it has taken on important local matters throughout its existence.

## Proposed Local Program for 2024-2025

**Recommended study:** None

**Non-recommended study:** None

## 2024-2025 Nominations for Officers and Directors

The Nominating team, comprised of Patty Dykman, Lisa Kuhnke, Anne Stroud, Marie Hernandez and Janet Milkovich, presented the following slate of nominees for the LWVJoCo 2024-2025 board, which was approved by the current board of directors.

### **President**

Connie Taylor

### **Co-Vice Presidents**

Patty Dykman

Karin Sorensen

### **Treasurer**

Mary Lou Jaramillo

### **Voter Registration Co-Chairs**

Raquel Koser

Melea Siebert

### **Membership Co-Chair**

Tonya Simpson-Hines

**The following members have agreed to serve on committee teams. This group did not need board approval.**

### **Presidential Advisers**

- Diane Kuhn—Past President
- Catherine Castelli—Past President
- Chelsea Williamson—DEI Lens
- Kathleen Strange

### **Programs Team**

- Kim Rich
- Janet Milkovich
- Christi Pribula
- Brandy Seidel
- Eileen Duggan
- Linda Trout

### **Treasurer/Finance Team**

- Mary Sheridan
- Royceann Mather
- Lisa Kuhnke

### **Voter Registration Team**

- Ruth Nerenberg
- Jan Brunks
- Cecile Schloegel
- Jean Frankel

## 2024-2025 Officer Candidate Bios

### President



#### **Connie Taylor**

Connie graduated from the University of Kansas with a master's degree in public administration. She worked in public relations and logistics for the Department of Defense in Southern California. She has volunteered for nonprofit organizations for more than 25 years in California, Nebraska and Kansas. She is passionate about voting and voter education. She joined the League in 2019 and served on the Communications Committee. She jumped into advocacy as the People Powered Fair Maps Champion to lead LWVJoCo's fight for fair maps in the redistricting process in Kansas, testifying at redistricting town halls and serving as the redistricting expert in several public forums. She chaired the state's redistricting position statement update. Previously, she has served as co-president and co-vice president. Connie lives in Olathe with her husband, Jeff.

### Co-Vice Presidents



#### **Patty Dykman**

Patty has been a member of the League for the past three years. She's been involved with the Voter Information Team, volunteering at several candidate forums as well as meet-and-greets. Patty served as a Brownie teacher at both Voter Girl events in 2021 and 2022. In Fall 2023, she participated in AIRR (Advocate for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation). Patty credits being involved with those events for helping her decide to be further involved in other aspects of the League. As a retired elementary guidance counselor, she feels she can use her communication and listening skills to support the goals of the LWV. 2024 looks to be a very important year for our country. By being involved with LWV, she is able to not only learn about the political landscape for herself, but will be able to work together to provide information for our LWV members and others.



#### **Karin Sorensen**

Karin has been with LWVJoCo for about three years. She has thoroughly enjoyed being part of the League, meeting many great people, and has learned about some fascinating topics. Karin is originally from Chicago. At 19, she moved to Albuquerque and then San Francisco before landing in Kansas. She is married with two kids, aged 28 and 25. Karin's hobbies include reading, cooking, watching old movies and informing anyone who'll listen about useless rock trivia facts.

## Treasurer



### **Mary Lou Jaramillo**

Mary Lou joined the League in 2016. She was appointed treasurer in March 2013 to fill a vacancy and served as co-chair of the DEI committee from 2019 to 2020. She brings 20+ years of experience as a nonprofit executive director in the Kansas City area and serving on area community nonprofit boards and foundations. In addition to the League, Mary Lou is a board member of the Kansas Leadership Center based in Wichita and the Kansas Hispanic Latino American Affairs Commission. She looks forward to supporting the mission of the League of Women Voters.

## Registration Co-Chairs



### **Raquel Koser**

In 2022, Raquel became a member of the LWVJoCo. She was driven by a sincere quest to deepen her understanding of voting rights and to learn how to help eligible voters stay informed and actively participate in every election. Serving as a member of the Voter Information team, Raquel leads the Voter to Voter team. In addition, Raquel enjoys volunteering at Candidate Meet & Greets and Legislative Coffees, contributing to voter education and gaining insights into local and state government.



### **Melea Siebert**

Melea has been a Johnson County resident for more than 20 years. Late 2023, Melea joined LWVJoCo. Being co-chair of Voter Registration will be the first leadership position she's held with our organization. Melea is excited to jump right in. In her spare time, she enjoys playing tennis, practicing yoga, volunteering and spending time with family and friends.

## Membership Co-Chair



### **Tonya Simpson-Hines**

Tonya Simpson-Hines is a displaced Southerner who has been calling Johnson County home for the last four years. She spent her career primarily working in technology sales and account management before transitioning to human resources. Tonya's focus and areas of passion are people strategy and optimization of inclusion efforts in the workplace. She is wife to Joseph and mom to Leilani, a Blue Valley North High Senior. Tonya is particularly proud to be a dog mom to Rocky and Charlie. In her downtime, she collects vinyl records, reads ferociously and obsesses over football.

## Directions to the New Board

This item, which is on the agenda for all annual meetings, is an opportunity for members to make suggestions to the Board for the coming year. Directions may cover many things, such as any of the following or suggestions of your own.

**Action:** What should our action emphasis be?

**Study:** What direction should local or state items emphasize?

**Voter Service:** What kind of information might help citizens? Should we sponsor particular issues or candidate forums?

**League:** How can our management be more effective? How can LWVJoCo better serve its membership?

**Other issues:** Special projects? If so, purposes and goals?

## Appendix A: Strategic Plan and Priorities

An organization's strategic plan is based on the organization's purpose and aspirations—how it seeks to make a difference in its community. The board finalized and approved the [2022-2027 Strategic Plan](#) at its Feb. 8, 2022 meeting.

## Appendix B: Past Presidents

### Presidents, League of Women Voters of Johnson County 1977-2024

1977-1979 Dorothy Novotny  
1979-1981 Kaye Cleaver  
1981-1983 Linda R. Johnson  
1983-1985 Carol Sader  
1985-1987 Judy Haas  
1987-1989 Marilyn Gaar  
1989-1991 Kaye Cleaver  
1991-1992 Ann Hebberger  
1992-1993 Vickie Stangl  
1993-1994 Nan Wilson  
1994-1995 Donna Lauffer  
1995-1996 Elaine Mann  
1996-1997 Mardie Kirkwood  
1997-1998 Audrey Romasco  
1998-1999 Debbie Ingold  
1999-2000 Nancy Jefferis  
2000-2002 Dolores Furtado/Janis McMillen  
2002-2003 Elaine Mann  
2003-2004 Myrna Stringer/Diane Kuhn  
2004-2005 Diane Kuhn  
2005-2006 Pat Lanser  
2006-2007 Ann Sanders  
2007-2008 Royceann Mather  
2008-2009 Barbara Stillman  
2009-2010 Candy Birch/Gwynne Lee  
2010-2011 Harriett Anderson  
2011-2012 Harriet Duff  
2012-2013 Paula Schwach  
2013-2014 Roberta Eveslage  
2014-2015 Diane Kuhn/Ann Norbury  
2015-2016 Ann Norbury/Susan Horst  
2016-2017 Candy Birch/Ann Sanders/Anita Kaiser/Eileen Manza  
2017-2018 Donna Lauffer/Sandra Sanchez  
2018-2019 Ellen Miller  
2019-2020 Ellen Miller  
2020-2021 Ellen Miller, Amber Stenger  
2021-2022 Amber Stenger  
2022-2023 Janet Milkovich  
2023-2024 Janet Milkovich, Connie Taylor

## In Memoriam

We are deeply saddened by the loss of two League member this past year. They made a difference in many lives through their advocacy and service to the community. We are lucky to have spent time with these wonderful people. They will be remembered.

Robert (Bob) Jefferis

Gloria Hiller

*Special thanks to member Amber Stenger for her help putting together this Annual Report.*

