

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED: GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Annual Report
March 6, 2021

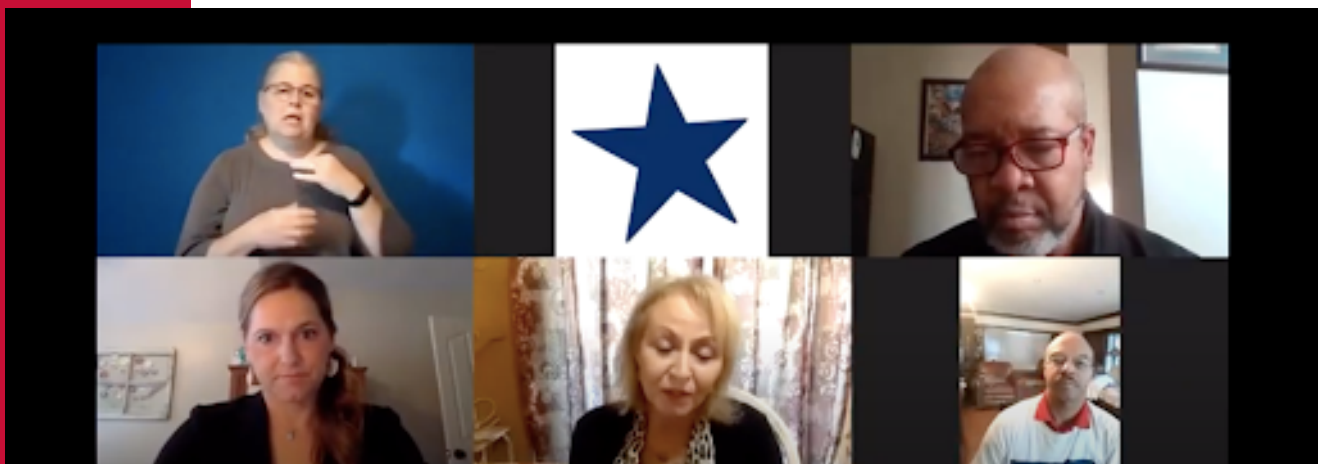


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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League 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 6, 2021

"Going the Extra Mile to Safeguard Elections"

Featuring former Johnson County Election Commissioner Connie Schmidt

Despite the cracks in our democracy that the pandemic exposed, voters turned out in record numbers in 2020 to make their voices heard. Safe, accessible and fair elections proved again to be the bedrock of our democracy. For our annual meeting, former Johnson County Election Commissioner Connie Schmidt – a true voting rights champion – will share her insights about how we continue to safeguard our electoral system and protect voters.

Co-Presidents' *Above and Beyond* Awards

Mary Lou Jaramillo, Anita Kaiser, Dr. Elizabeth Ann Sanders

Annual Meeting Agenda, March 6, 2021

Call to Order

Greetings from the Co-Presidents

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

Financial Report and Administration

- Financial Report

- Adoption of 2021-22 budget

Previously Adopted Positions

Proposal Local Programs for 2021-2022

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.

<i>Motions at a Glance</i>			
<i>To Do This:</i>	<i>You Say This:</i>	<i>Debatable?</i>	<i>What Vote?</i>
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 7, 2020 Annual Meeting

League of Women Voters of Johnson County Annual Meeting Minutes Atonement Lutheran Church March 7, 2020

Call to Order

Ellen Miller, President, called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m.

Greetings from the President

Ellen Miller 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 set the local program and make other decisions for the coming year. The Annual Report will be referenced frequently throughout the meeting.

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 309 members. Karin Leacox reported 99 members present, more than the 47 needed.

Adoption of Annual Meeting Rules Ellen Miller said that the meeting would be run according to the bylaws and *Roberts Rules of Order*. The meeting rules are on page 2 of the Annual Report. No one asked for a reading of the meeting rules and they were adopted as printed. Persons wishing to speak were asked to use the microphone and limit their remarks to three minutes.

Adoption of Agenda Sandra Sanchez moved to adopt the order of business as printed in the Annual Report, and Vivian Gibbens seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and by voice vote, the agenda was adopted.

Appointment of Minutes Approval Committee Ellen Miller announced the proposed members of the committee to approve the minutes—Ellen Porter, Robyn Hart, Karin Leacox (Chair). There being no objection, the committee was appointed.

Appointment and Introduction of Parliamentarian Ellen appointed Pat Martin as parliamentarian. There were no objections. Parliamentarian Pat Martin said her goal was to help the group reach decisions in a convenient, clear, and fair manner. She thanked the League for allowing her to serve as Parliamentarian again this year.

Recognition of Board Members and Committee Chairs

Ellen Miller recognized the Board members and committee chairs who served during the previous year. Special recognition was given to the five members leaving the Board—Cathy Matlack, Tom Stroud, Becky White, Karin Leacox, and Leslie Sullivan.

Proposed Application for IRS 501(c)3 Status

Ellen directed members to page 32 of the Annual Report. To apply for 501(c)(3) Status, the IRS requires member approval of specific language in both the Organization's bylaws and its Articles of Incorporation.

Proposed Revised Articles of Incorporation

The board of directors recommends adopting the proposal. Diane Kuhn moved to adopt the amended Articles of Incorporation as printed and Ann Norbury seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved and the revised Articles of Incorporation are now in effect.

Proposed Revised Bylaws and Standing Rules

Ellen directed members to page 33 of the Annual Report. There are two proposed Bylaws changes. One is to add language required by IRS to apply for 501(c)(3) status. The first change is Bylaws Art. II, Purposes and Policy, Sect. 1. The second change is Bylaws Art VI, Financial Administration, Section 4. An additional housekeeping change is proposed for Article XII. It would permit amending bylaws at general meetings other than the Annual Meeting. This change would give future boards flexibility when seeking member approval of such changes – not just doing it once a year. The board of directors recommends adopting the proposed changes. Lee Rowe moved to adopt the amended bylaws as printed and Donna Lauffer seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved and the revised bylaws are now in effect.

Financial Report and Administration

Financial Report

The official Financial Review Report for 2018-2019 is on page 51 of the Annual Report. All was in order for 2018-2019 and the Board of Directors accepted this report.

Adoption of Dues Increase

Sara Funk thanked the Budget Committee. Anita Kaiser directed members to page 43 of the Annual Report for an explanation of the proposed dues increase. We keep less than 20% of the dues we collect. Because our membership has more than doubled over the past five years it is more challenging to manage volunteers so we are going to start using new software to make management easier. We also need larger venues, which cost extra money. We are also partnering with other groups to have a larger impact. Sara added that three-quarters of members supported a dues increase of \$10 or more. Eileen Marshall moved to adopt the proposed dues increase of \$10 to the Primary Membership as printed in Standing Rule 4. There was no discussion. The motion was approved. Eileen Marshall moved to adopt the proposed dues increase of \$15 for the primary plus additional Membership as printed in Standing Rule 4. member. Dolores Furtado asked when future national or state dues increases would take effect. If they did increase it would be at least one year after the national or state vote. The motion was approved to increase both primary and additional membership dues.

Adoption of 2020-2021 Budget

The proposed budget is on pages 44-45 of the Annual Report. Sara Funk moved to adopt the Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget. Paula Schwach requested comments on the other category under fundraising since it is a substantial line item in the budget. Sara Funk explained that this is why we are having a dues increase this year. The committee created a balanced budget that wouldn't depend on taking money from savings. We have not had special fundraising for several years, so we hope it can happen. If it does not, we will have to take a transfer from our savings. The vote was to adopt the FY 2020-2021 budget.

Proposed Local Programs for 2020-2021

There are no proposed or non-recommended studies for the 2020-2021 year.

Previously Adopted Positions

Existing positions that have been adopted and updated locally since our League began in 1952 are on pages 8-12 of the Annual Report. Susan Horst made a motion to re-adopt the existing positions as printed and Diane Kuhn seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Nominations and Elections

Nominating Committee Chairs Kathy Minges and Eileen Manza thanked the committee members and referred to page 49 of the Annual Report. Eileen Manza presented the nominated slate of officers:

Co-Presidents – Amber Stenger and Ellen Miller

Vice President – Kathleen Morrow

Treasurer – Jerry Gilson

Co-Directors: Voter Registration – Robyn Hart and Deb Scott

Director: Voter Information - Julie Lester

Director: Communication – Mitchell Krasnopoler

Director: Membership – Anita Kaiser

Nominating Committee – Karen Wulfkühle (chair), Donna Lauffer, and Kathy Jennings

(The Board will appoint two additional members to this committee.)

After no nominations from the floor were made, Sandra Sanchez moved to accept the slate of candidates as presented. The motion passed by voice vote.

Directions to the Board of Directors

Amber Stenger and Ellen Miller, as the newly elected Co-Presidents, presided over the remainder of the meeting. They called for directions to the Board. The following directions were provided:

- Pursue Thursday evening meetings to better incorporate the Jewish community (Corey Walton)
- Consider a poverty simulation event similar to one suggested by Judge Robinson (Diane Kuhn)
- Study a position on early childhood education and/or kindergarten readiness (Claire Reagan)
- Consider providing child care during Saturday meetings (Claire Reagan)
- Provide coaching on how members can promote our presence on social media to help expand our reach (Claire Reagan)
- Consider a study of voter suppression in Johnson and Wyandotte counties (Connie Taylor)
- Increase efforts of voter registration, voter education, voter information and membership activities on college campuses (Connie Taylor)
- Provide an education program on fact checking, ways to address fake news and communicate effectively (Beth Rieke) In a follow up to this direction, Harry Bognich reminded members of the previous work on Fact Checking. This work became a presentation with the Speakers Bureau.
- Work to review the local position summaries through the DEI lens of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (Mary Lou Jaramillo)
- Educate general membership on DEI and national direction to incorporate DEI in everything we do. (Ann Sanders)
- Propose informal survey of statues of real, named women in Johnson County and what statues of women there should be in Johnson County to inspire young women. (Ann Norbury)

Announcements

Paula Schwach wants members to leave feeling empowered. A year ago, we adopted a position on affordable housing. As a result, there is a serious county-wide discussion on affordable housing and general look at housing going on with United Community Services, Mid-America Regional Services, and Johnson County. The technical work is underway. In each city, there will be opportunities for seniors, young professionals, and other groups to participate in focus groups. Our study had real meaning. What will come out of this effort is a toolkit that can help


each city address a range of housing needs within its community, specifically affordable housing. What we do here matters!

[Note: Cancelled due to COVID-19.] The first half of our April Meeting will be about the census. The second half will be brainstorming and table discussions about diversity, equity, and inclusion; reaching more voters; and ideas for future programs.

Adjournment

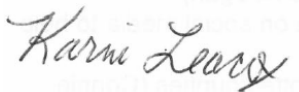
There being no further business, Ellen Miller and Amber Stenger adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Submitted by,



Danielle Keller
LWVJoCo Secretary

Approved by,



Karin Leacox
Annual Minutes
Committee Chair

Approved by,



Ellen Porter
Annual Minutes
Committee

Approved by,



Robyn Hart
Annual Minutes
Committee

Co-Presidents' Message

Ellen Miller and Amber Stenger

The year started auspiciously with two pre-COVID successes:

- [100th LWV celebration](#) held on February 29, 2020
- Annual Meeting held on March 7, 2020. Keynote speaker U.S. District Court of Kansas Judge Julie A. Robinson's presentation "[Empowering Women to Lead](#)".

But COVID's arrival in mid-March scuttled most LWVJoCo plans. No more high school voter registration before the summer break. No more popular legislative coffees at libraries. No more in-person events. Member communications consisted of cancellations. We slowly learned about virtual meeting platforms (Zoom), etiquette (mute that mic!) and costs (few dollars but much volunteer time). Kudos go to LWVUS, which immediately stepped in with invaluable webinars, tips and guidance.

Priorities: Our first priority, despite COVID and lockdowns, was protecting voting rights by ensuring voters could make their voices heard safely. The board adopted "Get Out The Vote (GOTV)" as our top priority. Working with many groups, we developed virtual methods for [voter registration](#); [candidate forums](#), [Souls to the Polls](#) car caravans in Wyandotte County; Vote411.org [online voter's guide](#); and [Voter to Voter](#). We also helped de-flap mail ballots at the [Election Office](#). Altogether 191 of our members signed up to help.

Our second task? Personalizing member communications. The monthly VOTER newsletter and frequent e-blasts continued, but more was needed. Leaguers care about each other. In August, we telephoned all members asking how they were doing. Many thanked the callers for the personal contact. Comments included:

- "I'm so glad you called! I haven't been out of my house except for groceries and doctors since March."
- "I've never been on Zoom, but will try it for the September DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion) program."

Member actions: Slowly, members started participating. Our first Zoom event, "[Legislative Update](#)" in May, attracted about 50 people; 61 people later viewed the program on our YouTube channel. Zoom event participation, new to the vast majority of our members, grew from that point on. As of late December 2020, 1,326 people have joined Zoom events live or watched later on YouTube or on LWVJOCO's [Facebook page](#). Nearly 200 people attended our Feb. 6, 2021 virtual meeting on redistricting.

During the year, members became acclimated to the Club Express membership management system. It includes our website, membership renewals, email communications, event registration, membership directory and calendar of events.

DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion): At its June 2020 Convention, LWVUS adopted DEI as its second bylaws policy, co-equal with nonpartisanship. That update is binding for all state and local leagues. Our [bylaws](#) now have the needed text online.

Our DEI initiative continued the leadership-down model with board and committee [chair workshops](#). Outreach to members started with September's program, "[Call to Action: Your Personal Exploration of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion](#)." In December, the Phase Two Planning Team began its work to further imbed DEI in our League's culture.

Finances: They improved in 2020, reflecting increased dues, a surplus from the 100th celebration, member donations, and a generous LWVK grant concerning election activities. The grant funded voter registration posters,

flyers and cards as well as Souls to the Polls flyers and car magnets. In August, we applied for the tax-deductible IRS 501 (C) 3 status. It could take up to 18 months for final notification.

Growth and Visibility: In 2020, LWVJoCo's energized members extended our outreach, including:

- [Souls to the Polls](#), Get Out The Vote car caravans attracted more than 140 cars and 225 participants. Its planning meetings involved 105 residents from faith, civic, and social groups. Police, college, and public transportation agencies provided logistical support.
- Membership grew from 309 on January 31, 2020 to 335 one year later.
- [Communications](#) boomed!
 - Traditional media mentions totaled 30. They ranged from CNN's August 29 interview about Souls to the Polls with Ann Sanders to KKFI radio's voter information programs.
 - After switching to the new Club Express platform in May 2020, website usage exceeded 1,000 visits nearly every month.
 - Through social media, we reached more than 80,000 people this year.
 - About 800 members and nonmembers received weekly emails reporting activities and news. Our email open rates -- 53 percent among members and 38 percent among nonmembers -- exceed the nonprofit industry standard of 20 percent.

Words cannot express our admiration and appreciation for our members! Despite this COVID year, you went above and beyond in order to protect voting rights. Your actions responded to the leadership provided by our board: Kathleen Morrow, Vice President; Danielle Keller, Secretary; Jerry Gilson, Treasurer; Mitchell Krasnopoler, Communications Chair; Robyn Hart and Deb Scott, Voter Registration Co-chairs; Julie Lester, Voter Information Chair; Mary Lou Jaramillo and Ann Sanders, DEI Co-chairs; and Anita Kaiser, Membership. Please join us in thanking these board members for going many extra miles in this difficult time.

Vice President for Programs: March 2020 through February 2021

Kathleen Morrow

The major responsibility of the Vice President is to plan and carry out programs offered at monthly meetings and special events throughout the year. Member input was used extensively in deciding which topics. Due to the COVID pandemic, all of the programs reported here were conducted via Zoom, recorded and placed on our [YouTube channel](#) or Facebook site. Where known, attendance and later viewing data are shown.

March 19, 2020 – *2020 Census: What's at Stake*. Speaker: Karen Wulfkühle, chair Johnson County Complete Count Committee. 69 views.

May 14, 2020 – *Legislative Recap*. Speakers Michael Poppa, Mainstream Coalition and Paul Johnson, LWVK Legislative observer. 50 attendees. 61 views.

July 8, 2020 – *The Vote (PBS documentary): A Virtual Discussion*. Speakers Diana Carlin, University of Kansas and Dawn Rattan, LWVJoCo. 25 attendees.

September 12, 2020 – *Call to Action: Your Personal Exploration of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion*. Speakers Juan M. Rangel, Jr. and Andrea Hendricks. 64 attendees + 81 views.

October 3, 2020 – *Voting Protections & Election Security: What We're Learning from COVID-19*. Speakers Connie Schmidt, Johnson County Election Commissioner; Nadine Johnson, ACLU of Kansas; Jessica Jones Capparell, LWVUS. 98 attendees + 71 views.

November 7, 2020 – *Building Resilience: Our Region's Climate Action Plan*. Moderator: Kyle Palmer, *Shawnee Mission Post*. Speakers Mike Kelly, Roeland Park Mayor; Keicha Smith, Bridging the Gap; Julie Sayers, Lenexa City Council. 77 attendees + 15 views.

January 21, 2021 – *Advocacy Training for 2021: How To Be Effective*. Speakers Carrie Lancaster, LWVK; Susan Ruiz, Kansas Representative; and John Skubal, former Kansas Senator. 33 attendees + 32 views.

February 6, 2021 – *Gerrymandering & Fair Representation: What Kansans Need to Know About Redistricting*. Speakers Brett Parker, Kansas Representative; Sheryl Spalding, former Kansas Representative; Dagny Velazquez, professor, KCK Community College, and Demetrious Fisher, campaign manager, People Powered Fair Maps, LWVUS. 196 attendees.

Our Zoom technical team included Amber Stenger, Marsha Ratzel, Leslie Mark, Danielle Keller, Amber Pugh, Connie Taylor and Mitchell Krasnopoler. Program moderators included Janet Milkovich, Cathy Matlack, Amber Stenger, Mary Lou Jaramillo, Ann Sanders and Kathleen Morrow. Many thanks to them all!

Voter Registration Overview

Deb Scott and Robyn Hart

Voter Registration comprises the subcommittees associated with registering voters in high schools, colleges, community events, senior centers, and Naturalization ceremonies. The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 restricted or cancelled all in person activities, resulting in a dramatic change in approach. Using technology and printed materials, the team revised their previous plans to reach the targeted audiences. The first task was to create digital materials

for training others to register citizens using both the paper forms and the online version available at:
<https://www.KSvotes.org>.

For high school and college teachers, we created PowerPoint presentations with and without audio showing students how to register to vote as well as to how to be an educated voter. These were made available on LWVJoCo's [YouTube channel](#) and have had a total of 854 views. We anticipate that they will be useful for training in the future. Our high school/college committee communicated with schoolteachers and officials offering the videos, PowerPoint presentations and other online resources.

Using Zoom virtual meeting technology, the team met with the subcommittees and volunteers for suggestions on how to best carry out the mission of increasing voter registration, particularly in underrepresented communities. We formed partnerships with other community groups which facilitated the distribution of printed materials. With funds from a grant awarded to LWVK, we were able to hire a graphic designer and printer for 250 posters, 1,500 flyers and 2,000 business cards encouraging voter registration, education, and participation. The materials utilized both the [KSvotes.org](#) and [Vote411](#) websites and QR codes. These were distributed by our volunteers to local small businesses, coffee shops, churches, senior living centers, food pantries, and food kitchens. Using the same graphics, four sandwich boards were produced and placed at voter registration events, food pantries and Kansas City Kansas Community College. Twenty yard signs were made and sold to LWVJoCo members.

The leadership of LWVK asked us to facilitate production of 5,750 English door hangers, 4,000 Spanish door hangers and 15,000 postcards to be used by the other Leagues in the state, using our existing graphics. We distributed our allotment to El Centro, Crosslines, food pantries and food kitchens in both Wyandotte and Johnson counties. We coordinated delivery of the materials to the other Kansas local Leagues, personally delivering to eight cities.

A postcard project was undertaken using a list of unregistered citizens between the ages of 18-23 in Johnson County. The list was obtained through a partnership of LWVK and Kansas Civic Engagement Table using [SmartVAN Kansas](#). Forty-two volunteers sent three postcards a piece to 420 unregistered citizens urging them to register, be informed and vote. While many of the postcards did not reach the intended recipients, 89 new registrations were completed. Sixty-six, or 16 percent, of the original target group voted.

Several in-person voter registration events were held in February and early March 2020 before the pandemic restrictions. A few events were held after the restrictions: Four YMCAs, two Kendra Scott stores, The Merc Co+op, Notre Dame de Sion school, the Welstone and Crosslines.

The following results include all events from February through October:

- 33 total registration events
- 196 total volunteers
- 332 volunteer hours
- 235 total registrations
- 20 advance ballot applications

The details of these projects will be available to future voter registration chairs. Many thanks to the nearly 200 volunteers who helped with voter registration and related tasks during 2020. Despite personal concerns about health and social distancing, they responded to our calls for support. We truly appreciate their selfless work to protect voting rights.

Voter Information: Vote411.org

Candy Birch

League of Women Voters US provides this powerful online tool to allow voters to learn about and compare candidates specific to their voting precinct. LWVJoCo set up two teams of volunteers to contact the candidates. Candy Birch headed the one for Johnson County, and Marge Gasnick the other for Wyandotte County.

Each team collected the email contact information of the candidates from the Election Office, candidate websites, texts, and Facebook Personal Messenger. The teams wrote and submitted to LWVK our questions for the candidates to post on [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org).

Our volunteers worked to get participation from all candidates for local and state offices in Johnson and Wyandotte counties. In Johnson County, there were 104 candidates in the primary election and 81 in the general election.

Initially, the Libertarian candidates were omitted as they register for political office through the Kansas Secretary of State's office. Once identified, they were added. In the future, <https://www.sos.ks.gov/> will always need to be checked in addition to Johnson and Wyandotte counties' election offices to ensure a complete list of candidates.

For the first time, website information was available in both English and Spanish. Nationally, more than 6 million users came to [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org) this year, an increase of about 1.5 million users compared to 2016. In Kansas, use of [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org) increased 38.01 percent from the last election cycle, and more than 27,000 Kansans used the nonpartisan voter information website.

The use of [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org) as a nonpartisan election information source in Johnson and Wyandotte counties increased on average 37 percent this election cycle. For instance, in KCK, Bonner Springs, and Edwardsville in 2020, a total of 2,261 sessions occurred on [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org). Of the 1,944 individual users, 1,864 of them were new users. The average session length was 3 minutes and 33 seconds.

In Olathe, use went up 38.78 percent. Eight-four users, 79 of whom were new, logged in 98 sessions with the average session length of 2 minutes and 8 seconds. In Overland Park, the largest city in Johnson County, use increased 30.63 percent with 192 users, 177 of them new in 222 sessions with average length of 3 minutes and 24 seconds.

LWVJoCo can continue to build on this success in upcoming elections, especially if [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org) and the state/national League continue to improve the functionality of the site.

The main challenge continues to be to get as many candidates as possible to respond to the questions so that the VOTE411 website can be as informative and thorough as possible.

Unfortunately, many candidates opted NOT to respond to the questions, a trend also seen in the number of candidates deciding not to attend candidate forums and debates. This appears to be a trend across the country. In Johnson County, 40 candidates did not participate — 28 were Republicans, along with nine Democrats and three Libertarians. Four of the six candidates in the non-partisan Board of County Commissioners races did not complete the questionnaire.

In future elections, we should seek guidance from the state and national League when not all candidates for an office submit their responses.

Voter Information: Legislative Coffees

Julie Lester

LWVJoCo, in partnership with the Johnson County Library, hosted three Legislative Coffees before the COVID shutdown in March 2020. Thanks to Cathy Nix who worked with Ashley Ficke, JCL, on these popular events.

- Corinth Library, January 25, 2020, 90 attendees
- Blue Valley Branch, February 8, 2020, 100 attendees
- Lenexa Library, February 22, 2020, 40 attendees

Of the five other planned coffees, three in Johnson County and two in Wyandotte County, all were cancelled due to COVID.

Voter Information: Candidate Forums

Julie Lester

LWVJoCo co-hosted three virtual non-partisan forums. Virtual forums utilizing Zoom and Zoom Webinar should remain a viable option for forums going forward. The expense is minimal, flexibility is optimum, and exposure is unlimited. Also, it can be a very efficient use of volunteer time and effort. All three forums in 2020 had the same planning and format. In weekly conferences, Michael Poppa (Mainstream Coalition) and Julie Lester (LWVJoCo) worked out the dates, order, the practice agenda and the rules for the nonpartisan forums. They contacted possible partners in the month prior to contacting the candidates. Becky White created a separate email for people to submit possible questions for the candidates.

Weeks ahead of the actual date, we presented the essential information in electronic invitation letters to the candidates. Follow-up email invitations were sent, and then a phone call was made if a candidate had still not responded. As the first two forums concentrated on races in Johnson County, we partnered with the same groups for both of these events. Our partners for the Johnson County forums were Mainstream Coalition (MS), ACLU Kansas, Advocacy and Awareness Group: Johnson County (AAGJC), Climate Action KC (CAKC), Johnson County Latina Leadership Network (LLN) and the Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce (NEJCCC).

The first forum, the Johnson County District Attorney race, was held at 4:30 p.m. on September 22, 2020. Both candidates, Steve Howe and Zach Thomas, participated. It was co-moderated by representatives of ACLUKS and AAGJC. It lasted one hour. LWVJoCo volunteers wrote, gathered and edited the questions; they also monitored the chat during the forum. Mainstream Coalition handled the technical aspects of the Zoom format. Two-hundred and twenty people registered ahead of time, 172 people were in attendance near the end. The forum was posted to the LWVJoCo YouTube site and is available at and to Mainstream's Facebook page as well as other platforms of the various partners. As of November 7 – four days after the general election – there were a total of 641-plus views of the video: 369 views on LWVJoCo's YouTube, and 272 views on Mainstream's Facebook plus the activity on our other partners' platforms.

The second forum covering the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners' races was held on September 29, 2020. Only three of six candidates participated in the hour-long forum. It was co-moderated by representatives from the LLN and LWVJoCo. One-hundred and thirty-four people registered ahead of time, and there were 80 attendees at about the half hour mark. As of November 7, there were 72-plus views of the video with 42 views of the program posted on the YouTube channel and 30 views on Mainstream's Facebook page plus the activity on our other partners' platforms.

The third forum involved candidates for the Kansas State Senate districts in Wyandotte County. Seven of the eight candidates involved in four contests participated in the hour and a half forum. Our partners were Mainstream Coalition; Servicing LIPPS; Dotte Votes; KCK NAACP Branch; Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and Collaborative Communications. The moderator was Broderick Crawford from Servicing LIPPS and Collaborative Communications. Fifty people registered; 17 were in attendance at the half hour. As of November 7, the forum had 41-plus views, 19 on the [YouTube channel](#), and 22 views on Mainstream's [Facebook page](#) plus the activity on our other partners' platforms.

Voter Information: Naturalization Ceremonies

Christine Hutchins

During 2020, the Naturalization Ceremonies Committee was on track to participate in 11 naturalization ceremonies, which would have included two large venue events at Johnson County Community College (with approximately 400 new citizens each). Due to snow and for safety concerns, we cancelled our participation in the January ceremony, but continued our schedule with the February ceremony where we registered 57 of the 89 new citizens, or 64 percent. Then COVID-19 hit.

All regular ceremonies and our participation were cancelled. In late spring the Federal Court in Kansas City, KS formulated a plan for scheduling multiple smaller ceremonies following state pandemic guidelines. According to court statistics, 1,310 new citizens were naturalized during the calendar year 2020. We had no means of determining how many of those new citizens went on to become registered voters, but considering 2020 was an election year, it was hoped that many of them pursued their voter registration opportunities. The Naturalization Ceremonies Committee did provide our voter information handouts to the court for distribution, as well as voter registration application forms and instructions for completing and returning the forms, important election dates, and links for checking on voter registration status.

The court has a full schedule of naturalization ceremonies on the calendar for 2021 which will be carried out in the same manner as was done during the summer and fall of 2020. Hopefully, the Naturalization Ceremonies Committee will soon be able to return to our participation in these ceremonies and to assist the new citizens in becoming registered voters.

Voter Information: Souls to the Polls 2020

Elizabeth Ann Sanders, PhD.

Dr. Kerry Dixon, Veronica McNeill, Amber Adams, Donald Bing, Beth Seberger

A Get Out The Vote initiative, Souls to the Polls, was initiated by LWVJoCo member Dr. Elizabeth Ann Sanders. It focused on organizing Wyandotte County churches to get their congregations registered to vote and voting in both the August and November elections. Dr. Sanders communicated with the clergy and the Kansas City, Kansas community in the Fall of 2019 by mailing an informative letter to 225 churches in KCK. The initiative was endorsed by the Black Baptist Ministerial Alliance in December of 2019. The next month, STP had a recruitment table at the Martin Luther King Celebration at the Reardon Center in KCK; 35 people joined the STP initiative. Partners included the NAACP, Dotte Votes, Connect the Dotte, Mainstream Coalition, and Black Greek organizations; a complete list is shown under Organizational Information.

Meetings began in person in January 2020 and switched to phone conferences after the COVID-19 shutdown in March. There were four in-person meetings and 14 phone conference meetings as new plans to contact voters emerged after COVID-19. Work was coordinated by Ann Sanders, chairperson of the STP Initiative. Altogether, 105

people were involved with the in-person and virtual planning meetings. Logistics involving communication, fundraising, the two car caravans, and Voter to Voter within the church congregations were discussed, with work allocated to various members.

Two car caravans were planned for low-turnout areas of KCK. The first one was held July 11, 2020, before the primary election. There were 60 cars and 100 participants. Cars decorated with STP signage and GOTV messages drove through three wards in KCK with a total of 3,267 registered voters.

The second car caravan was before the General Election on October 10, 2020. Its 80 cars and 125 participants drove through four wards in KCK with 3,868 registered voters. Altogether, 7,135 registered voters live in the selected wards.

Souls to the Polls gained major media attention. On August 29, [CNN interviewed Ann Sanders](#) about Souls to the Polls. Local television news shows, print media, and social media helped spread the word and the impact of this very successful GOTV initiative. (See our [website](#) for clips.) It should be a model of future GOTV undertakings on the part of the League. It is intended that the following details will help future leaders.

Organizational information

1. Origin & History

- a. Fall 2019 – Began with First African Methodist Episcopal—Leadership tabled—Reason: Too Late
- b. Fall 2019 – Spoke with LWVJoCo President Ellen Miller about the idea
- c. November 2019 – Presented idea to League board -- Less than enthusiastic, but it filled the requirement by LWVK to have a March to the Polls
- d. December 2019 – Letter of Endorsement drafted
- e. December 2019—Met with and was endorsed by the Black Baptist Ministerial Alliance (Attendees: Ann Sanders, Becky White, Julie Lester, Wendy Wilson)
- f. December 2019 – 25 influencers endorse the letter launching the initiative
- g. December 2019 – Mailed letters to 225 churches inviting them to participate
- h. January 2020 – Presented the idea to Joan Wagon of LWVK as an alternative to MTTP. She was enthusiastic and sent \$250 seed money.
- i. January 2020 – STP roster created by Veronica McNeill
- j. January – October – STP Minutes produced by Amber Adams & Donald Bing

2. Supporters & Supporting Organizations

- a. Elizabeth Johnston – Logo/Brand
- b. Mainstream Coalition – Printing, manpower and Voter to Voter training
- c. LWVJoCo – Financial Management: printing, postage, car magnets, manpower
- d. Dotte Votes
- e. Connect the Dotte
- f. NAACP
- g. LWV Salina
- h. LWVUS
- i. LWVK
- j. Black Greek Organizations: Delta Sigma Theta, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Alpha Pi Alpha, Omega Psi Pi
- k. Kansas City Kansas Police Department
- l. Kansas City Kansas Community College Campus Police
- m. 105 STP Committee Members

3. In-Person Meetings
 - a. Strangers' Rest—December—25 attendees
 - b. Oak Ridge—January—55 attendees
 - c. 8th Baptist—February—75 attendees
 - d. St. Andrew Missionary Baptist Church—March – 45 attendees (COVID-19 awareness)
4. Phone Conference Meetings
 - a. Met 2X per month--April to October 2020
 - b. 14 Meetings
5. Media
 - a. CNN on August 29, 2020
 - b. Channel 41 (three times)
 - c. Channel 9 (two times)
 - d. Newspapers: Shawnee Post & Wyandotte Daily
6. Social Media Accounts
 - a. Facebook
 - b. LinkedIn
7. Church Voter to Voter Initiative
 - a. Dr. Kerry Dixon, Chairperson
 - b. Mike Sanders
 - c. James White
 - d. Donald Bing
 - e. Rev. Bob Milan and Janet Milan
 - f. Rev. Jason Thompson--new minister of First African Methodist Episcopal church
8. Organizational Strategies
 - a. Tight Meeting Agendas—45 minutes to 1 hour
 - b. Met with LWVJoCo's Julie Lester & Becky White –Timelines and Car Caravans; Date Selected to Correspond with Registration Dates
9. Car Caravans
 - a. July 11, 2020
 - i. 60 Cars—100 participants
 - ii. Three wards and precincts selected based on low voter turnout
 1. Ward 9, Precinct 6
 2. Ward 11, Precinct 5
 3. Ward 11, Precinct 8
 - iii. Total Voters Impacted = 3,267
 - b. Caravan 2—October 10, 2020
 - i. 80 Cars—125 participants
 - ii. Four wards and precincts selected
 1. Ward 3, Precinct 2
 2. Ward 5, Precincts (1-5)
 3. Ward 10, Precinct 2
 4. Ward 11, Precinct 8
 - iii. Total Voters Impacted—3,868
 - c. Grand total of impact—7,135 registered voters' neighborhoods were driven through
10. Transportation—Ride KC gave free rides to register and to the polls

11. Donations

- a. Total number of donors, including LWVJoCo and LWVK is 26.
- b. The current Souls to the Polls account balance as of December 12, 2020 is \$2,747.55.

Voter Information: Voter to Voter

Jill Quigley

Voter to Voter is a get-out-the-vote-effort based on relational politics, getting people you know to the polls.

- A team leader recruits ambassadors interested in getting at least 10 people out to vote.
- Ambassadors look up people they know (family, friends, neighbors, co-workers) in a voter database to determine those who are infrequent voters.
- Ambassadors then provide voting information and encouraging follow up as needed to assist infrequent voters in voting.
- Ambassadors are trained in use of the database and online tool, receive regular communications with voting information and motivation tips, and are supported through weekly Zoom meetings, Facebook posts, and website updates.

Our Stats: This was LWVJoCo's third year as part of the Voter to Voter program. We had a team of 15 active ambassadors who touched 261 registered voters. Our team's turnout rate was 94 percent, or 249 people; 44 percent of those voters, or 109 people, were considered infrequent voters. Our League volunteers were: Sarah Baum, Candy Birch, Mary Grant, Danielle Keller, Deborah Kitchin, Kathleen Morrow, Ann Norbury, Jill Quigley, Mimi Rainen, Marsha Ratzel, Amber Sellers, Amber Stenger, Erica Voell, Linda Watts, and Nan Wilson.

Statewide: Of the 20,000+ Kansas voters connected to Voter to Voter, 91 percent of them voted in November (compared to the 71 percent turnout statewide). Of those contacted by our ambassadors, 68 percent who had never voted before did so. There were more than 200 teams across the state. There were seven league teams: Emporia, Lawrence-Douglas County, Leavenworth, Manhattan-Riley County, Johnson County, Kansas, and Topeka-Shawnee County.

New this Year: The Voter to Voter program became part of the wider Voter Network with an updated website and online tool. There were weekly Zoom meetings for ambassadors and team leaders where ideas for recruitment were shared, updated election information was distributed, resources were provided, encouragement was given, and problems were solved. Guest speakers, like Governor Laura Kelly and Davis Hammet of Loud Light, gave us encouragement and election information. There was also a Voter to Voter Ambassador Facebook page.

LVW 2020 Centennial

Donna Lauffer

The [100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters](#) was celebrated at Yardley Hall, Johnson County Community College on February 29, 2020. From the multitude of positive comments received at the event and after the event, it was a success. Approximately 500 attended of which more than 25 were elected officials.

Event Features:

Preliminary Music and Video – “Standing on Their Shoulders,” Rouse House
Nick Haines, KCPT, Master of Ceremonies
Dolores Furtado – presented “Celebrating the Right to Vote”
Keynote speaker, Rosie Rios (43rd Treasurer of the US)

Lansing Girl Scouts Color Guard (Troop 506) featuring Alyssa Wiegers who sang “America the Beautiful”
Music Theater Kansas City, Julie Danielson Director – Elise Bowles, McKenna Lewis, Tori Wyatt sang “Sufferin’ ’til Suffrage”
Moderated Q& A

Flyers and banners were produced thanks to the artistic paintings by Jennifer Hudson and produced by Sign Pro Kansas City and Shelby Hughes, Graphic Artist. Research contributors were Anne C. Jones, Curator- Johnson County History Museum, Anita Kaiser, Diane Kuhn, Julie Lester, Ann Norbury and Amber Stenger.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to the many committee members who contributed to the planning and execution of the event. Members include Susan Horst, Dolores Furtado, Janis McMillen, Candy Birch, Mimi Rainen, Julie Rainen, Caryn Rains, Ellen Porter, Amber Sellers, Mary Lou Jaramillo, Royceann Mather, Julie Miguel, Jodie Dietz, Betzaid Imperiale, Nancy Gatz, Marie Hernandez, Amber Stenger, and Joan Cabell. Their enthusiasm, talents, ideas and connections were invaluable.

The event came in at a cost of \$32,607.27 which was within budget and left LWVJoCo with a balance of nearly \$7,000. Thank you to all those who helped make this a memorable event that celebrates the best of the League of Women Voters.

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 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 currently have the following 22 observers signed up for 14 meetings:

County Boards

Johnson County Commission	Lenore Rowe, Kathleen Morrow, Joan Gilson, Karen Wiederaenders, Jerry Gilson
JOCO Commission on Aging	Marcia Manter
JOCO Community College	Roberta Eveslage
JOCO Library Board	Karen Wulfkuhle
JOCO Mental Health	Mary and Harry Bognich
JOCO Parks & Recreation	Cynthia Stephens

School Boards

Blue Valley	Elise Kammeyer
Olathe	Cindy Hicks
Shawnee Mission	Lisa Bonds

City Councils

Leawood	Alleen VanBebber, Mary Grimes, Lynn Hardy
Mission	Jeannine Linnane
Overland Park	Janet Milkovich
Prairie Village	Nancy Maxwell, Eileen Marshall
Shawnee	Rose Reicherts

We have openings for Water One, Board of County Commissioners (shared), and Unified Government of Wyandotte County, as well as any city council not listed above.

Speakers Bureau

Kathleen Morrow

The current Speaker's Bureau curricula consists of 7 to 10 PowerPoint presentations covering the history of women's suffrage and the last 100 years of League development nationally and locally. For 2020, Speakers Bureau invitations and presentations, like many other activities, were adversely affected by COVID-19. Two presentations were made in person; one was virtual:

- February 2020 – Immanuel Lutheran Church. Speaker Kathleen Morrow, 15 attendees. Topic: Promoting voter registration and LWVJoCo programs.
- March 2020 – Church of the Resurrection. Speaker Linda Seiner, 30 attendees. Topic: History and 100-year anniversary of Women's Suffrage; also LWVJoCo voter registration and community education.
- September 2020 – Colonial Church (Virtual). Speakers Linda Seiner, LWVJoCo Speakers Bureau; and Lindsay Begham, Voter to Voter, Mainstream Coalition, six attendees. Topic: The process and current status of voter registration in Johnson County; also voter registration efforts by LWVJoCo, Voter to Voter and Mainstream Coalition.

Regrettably, three other programs had to be cancelled: Johnson County Museum in March; Olathe PEO chapter, in June; and National Association of Women Business Owners in October. For 2021, we hope to develop additional (virtual) presentations focusing on voter registration and suppression in connection with our DEI initiative as well as the She is Me program.

Membership

Anita Kaiser, Membership Coordinator

As of January 31, 2021, LWVJoCo had a total of 335 active members. Sixty new members joined since April 1, 2020. Membership renewal dates were switched from an annual date for all members to the anniversary month of a member's joining.

Membership functions were performed by the Membership Team: Edna Baginsky, Lynn Hardy, Kathy Hockley, Kathy Jennings, Anita Kaiser, Diane Kuhn, Liz Kumar, Donna Laufer, Karin Leacox, Eileen Manza, Wandra Minor, Palita Robinson and Victoria Smith.

Membership Team Actions Supporting Membership

Greeters: No greeters were needed this year due to having no in-person meetings. In past years Kathy Hockley recruited volunteers for that.

Guest Follow-up: All events were virtual. Online inquiries via our new website were automatically forwarded to the appropriate leaders for follow-up. This included questions re: non-member volunteer opportunities.

Mentor Program: Kathy Hockley and Eileen Manza replaced Diane Kuhn as Mentor Coordinators in June. They attempted to contact each new member by phone or email to determine their need for a mentor. These 11 Mentors were available to provide helpful information and connections as needed: Harry Bognich, Gloria Hiller, Mary Lou Jaramillo, Kathy Jennings, Donna Lauffer, Karin Leacox, Kathy Minges, Jane O'Neil, Mary Louise Poquette, Mimi Rainen, and Karen Wulfkühle. Thirteen members used that service.

Connecting Members with Information and Committees: (The following activities were greatly facilitated by launching the membership management system Club Express in May 2020.)

- Orientation materials were made accessible to new members via links in automated membership confirmation emails. Orientation materials were available on the website under the headings of "GET INVOLVED" and "ABOUT US."
- An important new automated function on our website: When joining, renewing or updating personal information, members can identify their interest in committees and volunteering. That data is available to leaders in real time.
- To introduce leaders to helpful website functions, Karin Leacox shared member interests reports with committee chairs regularly. Website training in 2021 will allow leaders to do this independently.
- Assisted with a summer outreach mailing to all members to connect and alert them to a follow-up phone call from leaders to all members.
- Assisted with a September survey for member input on how LWVJoCo could best serve them through the end of the year.

New Member Orientation Events: No in-person orientation meetings were held. It is recommended that we initiate virtual orientations going forward.

Data Management: Liz Kumar managed data in the LWV Roster and our membership management system, with backup from Karin Leacox and Anita Kaiser.

Membership Directory: New this year was the online Membership Directory, available to members only when they login to our website. It is updated in real time when a member renews or updates their personal profile.

Member Appreciation: Kathy Hockley sent thank-you notes for donations. The virtual December Holiday Party recognized our accomplishments during 2020. It included virtual breakout rooms for socializing with other members, fun door prizes, and a recorded performance of "Rise" by the KC Women's Chorus.

Succession Planning:

- Leaders were asked to identify back-up help and potential vacancies.
- Anita Kaiser and Karin Leacox assisted the Nominations Committee during the year.
- Liz Kumar, Anita Kaiser and Karin Leacox managed various membership functions and data in our membership management system to promote ease of use for members and leaders. The new system makes leadership positions more attractive by simplifying administrative tasks and makes transitions easier.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Initiative

Elizabeth Ann Sanders, PhD and Mary Lou Jaramillo, MPA

"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." Here is the [DEI policy](#) and more information.

LWVUS has charged each state and local League to join the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiative with commitment, passion, and intentionality.

In May 2019, the Johnson County League appointed two members to lead our individual and collective DEI journey of self-discovery and actualization of our organization's mission and vision. The LWVJoCo board decided, given the size of our organization, that we as a board would adopt the "leaders of leaders" model. The model required the board first to inform ourselves through readings, exercises, and candid /crucial conversations. It was determined that once we had gained a level of confidence and knowledge, then we would engage our members in small groups.

The pandemic caused a shift in engaging with the League's board and committee chairs as DEI planning meetings and workshops were all virtual throughout 2020. Workshops designed by the DEI co-chairs included an introduction to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, recommended readings, and self-assessments.

Workshop 1, May 16, 20

- Participants read "Unlearning Automatic Biases: The Malleability of Implicit Prejudice and Stereotypes"
- Reviewed and discussed the League's April 2020 DEI survey results
- Small group discussions generated ideas to increase awareness of DEI among League members.

Workshop 2, June 1

- Reviewed of the LWVUS Transformation Roadmap
- Discussed applying LWVUS DEI Lens to major action steps
- Dialogued: how to begin a conversation on implicit bias on race, white privilege with someone who has not done DEI training

Workshop 3, July 18

- Cultural self-awareness survey
- Privilege pie exercise
- A personal commitment to further the DEI Initiative in the work of League's committee structures

DEI Event, September 12 program

- "A Call to Action: Your Personal Exploration of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" featured two area DEI trainers, Andrea Hendricks, Ph.D. and Juan Rangel, Jr. The program is available on the league's [YouTube channel](#).
- Beginning in Fall 2020, the DEI Co-chairs and the co-presidents began to meet and ask, "What's Next?" for our League's DEI Initiative. It was decided to broaden the DEI Planning Committee to include League members who had expressed an interest in furthering DEI in our organization. The expanded team of 15 met on December 10, 2020, to explore resources and next steps.
- State Representative Cindy Neighbor expressed an interest in leveraging her position in the State Legislature to make the state of Kansas more inclusive. It was suggested that she sponsor a State Resolution addressing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the state of Kansas. Ideas call for the resolution to be drafted and endorsed by LWVK.
- The Johnson County League of Women Voters has distinguished itself through its committed efforts to "create a more perfect democracy." Having each member face their own personal biases while developing a more inclusive organization is challenging, hard work that requires sensitivity, respect, commitment, and the creation of a safe space to be "real." Our League is comprised of change agents and visionary thinkers who are willing to challenge themselves while addressing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, one of the most complex issues facing our organization, society, and nation. Together, we aspire to be a stellar example of an inclusive, relevant 21st Century organization that meets each challenge with courage and grace.

Hospitality

Gloria and Gerald Hiller

Hospitality Committee has very little to report this year due to COVID-19 restrictions on in-person meetings. We provided coffee and finger foods for the January and February meetings but there have been no in-person general meetings since then. We are looking forward to future meetings where we can gather. We are anticipating switching from Sign-up Genius to utilization of the League's website for volunteer sign-ups. We continue to possess the many large containers of hospitality supplies which we store at our house.

Communications Team

Mitchell Krasnopoler

Members of the Communications Committee worked more than 200 hours throughout the year to encourage voting in all elections, educate voters about issues, publicize LWVJoCo events and inspire action on League-supported legislative efforts. The team also successfully migrated the League to a new website/membership management system, Club Express. Committee members are Mitchell Krasnopoler (chair), Kathleen Morrow, Diana Carney, Danielle Keller, Tinna Hung, Bonnie Limbird, Amber Pugh, Marsha Ratzel, Amber Stenger, Connie Taylor, and Karen Plummer. We successfully kept our members and interested citizens involved during the COVID-19 pandemic, through engaging and lively virtual meetings. Our team stepped up to this challenge.

From January 2020 through May 2020, we updated content on our website approximately weekly. Starting in November 2019, we developed a new website on ClubExpress.com in preparation for the May 2020 rollout. In 2020, we sent out 40 eblasts to members (an email every one to two weeks), published extensive monthly newsletters (The VOTER), created more than 600 Facebook and Twitter posts and distributed several press releases to a variety of media outlets with a focus on reaching diverse communities. We have continued to build followers on our new Instagram account.

Our efforts contributed to:

- Attendance at legislative coffees prior to the pandemic lockdown, and to monthly meetings even after these went virtual
- Media coverage of our monthly meetings
- Increased number of people following us on Facebook (up 20 percent)
- Member and public engagement through social media
- Promoted participation in LWVJoCo events
- Monthly League meetings
- Voter registrations drives and training
- Legislative coffees
- Advocacy education and workshops
- Naturalization ceremonies
- Partner organization events such as the Girl Scout tea
- Centennial celebration events in Johnson County and statewide
- Souls to the Polls planning and caravans

Encouraged actions

Through eblasts, Facebook posts and the website, we focused on getting people to register to vote and then to cast a ballot. LWVJoCo partnered with Mainstream Education Foundation's Voter to Voter program to get out the vote. LWVJoCo encouraged early voting as well as participation in the 2020 Census.

We also urged people to contact state and federal elected officials about dozens of issues. Topics included protecting the post office, governmental transparency, Medicaid expansion and climate change.

Eblasts

We sent weekly eblasts to about 850 subscribers. We use this channel to promote the organization and share opportunities to advocate and engage. The average eblast open rates January 2020 to December 2020 were:

PLATFORM	MEMBER		NON-MEMBER	
	OPEN RATE	NUMBER SENT	OPEN RATE	NUMBER SENT
MailChimp (Jan-May)	48.1%	472	36.1%	481
ClubExpress (May-Dec)	60.4%	336	41.6%	404
Both – annual average	53.9%	408	38.9%	441

As shown, our open rate increased when we switched from MailChimp to Club Express. Note also that both our member and non-member open rates are significantly higher than the national average of 20 percent.

Facebook posts

- We increased our Facebook page followers by 20 percent, from 1,502 people to 1,798.
- Our posts had a reach of more than 78,000 throughout the year.
- We created hundreds of posts and shared posts from the national and Kansas leagues.

Twitter posts (Tweets)

- During the year, we had more than 52,000 Tweet impressions (This is a total tally of all the times the Tweet has been seen. This includes not only the times it appears in one of our followers' timeline but also the times it has appeared in search or because of someone liking the Tweet.)
- We have 434 followers, up 83 from 2020.

Instagram posts

- We created more than 100 posts.
- We currently have 335 followers – more than double the number of followers at the end of 2019.

LWVJoCo website

Usage from January 2020 to December 2020:

- About 35,000 page views (page views are the total number of pages viewed; repeated views are counted). This is about 60 percent more than 2019. This increase is most likely because 2020 was a presidential election year.
- 12,800 sessions, up 3 percent (a session is the period a user is actively engaged with our website)
- 7,800 users, up 6 percent (people who initiated at least one session with our website during the year)
- Top pages for the year were the home page, events, and 2020 elections

Member Management Software: Using Club Express

League members have successfully used the new website/Club Express member management system. Over 200 renewed online. Of our 363 members, only 106 have never logged in.

The VOTER newsletter

We continued to publish the newsletter through our website for January to May. Starting in June, we used the Club Express Email module to send the newsletter. Both platforms allow us to measure how many people read the

newsletter. Newsletters before the Club Express migration are stored on the League's Google drive with public links on the website.

Newsletters using Club Express can be found on the [website](#). Both storage methods allow website visitors to view the current issue as well as past issues.

The average VOTER open rates January 2020 to December 2020 were:

Member: 56 percent of about 330 sent

Non-member: 39 percent of about 380 sent

YouTube

83 subscribers (up from 43 in December 2019). The following videos had the most viewers:

- October 2020 meeting on "Voting Protections and Election Preparedness: What We're Learning from COVID-19" was viewed 71 times.
- "2020 JOCO DA Candidate Forum" was viewed 371 times.
- "Time to Vote: Voting Education and Registration Tutorial" was viewed 208 times.
- "Whose Decisions Are These Anyway: Considerations for An Informed Voter" was viewed 105 times.

Media coverage

This year, we were mentioned 30 times in the traditional media and partner communications. Outlets include KMBC, the Shawnee Mission Post and Kansas City Star. Most of these mentions consisted of calendar events and briefs about our meetings. In addition, several members' letters to the editor were published throughout the year. We also received some negative press after an event at a Blue Valley school. The KC Star Editorial, "How could Blue Valley Schools hold a partisan-tinged voter registration event?" was inaccurate in its characterization of the event as partisan. However, this incident is a lesson learned on ensuring a wide spectrum of guests are both invited and do participate. This incident highlights the importance of LWVJoCo being hypervigilant about directing the invitation process for its events, documenting who was invited to participate and listing who actually does participate.

2020 Census Outreach

Karen Wulfkuhle

Johnson County established its 2020 Complete Count Committee in late 2018. Its purpose was to increase awareness and motivate residents to respond to the 2020 Census. LWVJoCo was represented by Jill Quigley and Karen Wulfkuhle. Karen chaired the committee and Jill led the outreach strategy targeted to young children.

Significant planning was undertaken prior to the “official” launch of the 2020 Census on April 1, which was two weeks after restrictions due to COVID-19 changed public life. Even though all but social media outreach efforts were altered or halted, the county self-response rate was 79.7 percent, slightly higher than the 2010 self-response rate of 76.1 percent. Door-to-door canvassing by Census Bureau employees and other methods are used to count 100 percent of residents.

Strategies focused on those with low response rates in 2010: low-income households, minorities, and families with young children. To reach families with young children, Jill Quigley worked to secure grant funds to purchase a book designed to educate and inform parents about why and how to participate in the Census. Titled *We Count* the book also served as an early reader for children. Fourteen early childhood service providers distributed 3,100 copies of the book in Spanish and English. Hospitals, Johnson County Health Department, and Johnson County Health Partnership Clinic distributed information to parents.

In addition to representation on the Complete County Committee, the League contributed in a number of ways.

- League members were informed about the Census via a table at the League’s Centennial Celebration, announcements at monthly meetings, and a [YouTube program](#) with Amber Stenger and Karen Wulfkuhle.
- League members informed others via information distributed at voter registration events and naturalization ceremonies. The League website and social media regularly shared Census information. League member Joyce Bartel distributed information to 16 senior-living facilities. Several members asked faith communities to participate in “Census Sabbath.”

Thank you to everyone who helped achieve a complete count in Johnson County.

Election Office Volunteers for 2020 Primary and General Elections

Jan Brunks

Anticipating record-setting numbers of mail ballots, LWVJoCo offered to help the Johnson County Election Office de-flap, open and flatten ballots before being processed by its staff. The Election Office provided dates and times that volunteers were needed via a Google spreadsheet. Per Election Office regulations, three volunteer slots were requested for each four-hour shift – one each for registered Democrats, Republicans, and Unaffiliated – for both morning and afternoon, Monday through Friday (with some additional Saturdays).

Notification of need for volunteers was put out through the League’s website, newsletters, and in emails. The spreadsheet worked very well, and most volunteers had no problems using it. Many League members responded to the request. A total of 56 members logged 352 total hours for the two elections. In fact, we had more volunteers than positions available for registered Democrats. We filled most of the positions for registered Republicans but had many open slots for unaffiliated voters. During several especially busy days, the Election Office did let us fill a few of those unaffiliated spots with other party affiliations.

Election Office procedures required masks; Plexiglas dividers were placed at each workstation. The office was thoroughly cleaned and sanitized each evening. No bags or coats were allowed in the work room. However, because

of the pandemic and space constraints at the Election Office, some of our volunteers felt uncomfortable. Social distancing was difficult to maintain. Seven volunteers cancelled their signups; however, we were able to fill most of those slots with others. With the help of our volunteers the Election Office was able to keep up with the demand of drop-off and mail-in ballots and did not require our help following the General Election on November 3, 2020.

Narrative Description of Budget Spreadsheets FY 2021-2022

COLUMNS

C- Actual Income and Expense (July 2018-June 2019) 12-month year

D- Actual Income and Expense (July 2019-March 2020) 9-month short year. Short because of LWVJoCo changing its activity year.

E- Actual Income and Expense (April 2020-October 2020) Current year to date

ROWS IN COLUMN F, PROPOSED BUDGET FOR APRIL 2021 THROUGH MARCH 2022)

INCOME Page 1

8- Dues, estimated 330 primary members at \$70 and \$45 additional household members at \$35.

19-No LWVUS grants are assumed.

31- Cash Reserves. Our strong commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and our need for a consultant to assist in long-range planning requires we use cash reserves to balance income and expenses. We have funds left over from our centennial event, which have increased our cash reserves and are available for this planned use, so the impact on reserves is minimal.

EXPENSE Page 2

13- Our annual meeting (Printing and Parliamentary.) Expense has been increased this year because the meetings will be virtual, requiring additional parliamentary fees.

26- LWV Financial Support consists of the national and state portions of our dues. Each primary membership includes \$32 national and \$20 state dues. Each additional household membership includes \$16 national and \$10 state dues. State dues increased \$2 for primary and \$1 for additional members this year.

33-Our \$1,000 expense is based on resuming in-person meetings in September.

EXPENSE Page 3

16- President and Board includes \$2,000 for a consultant to facilitate our next strategic plan, due in 2021.

36- Registration and Follow-up: We received a grant for \$3,622 this year to offset our increased election year project expenses. No grant is expected next year. We anticipate fewer expenses in a non-election year.

Proposed budget

LWVJoCo 2021-2022 Proposed Operating Fund Budget

Page 1

FINAL

	12 Months 2018-19	9 Months 2019- 2020	7 Months 2020- 2021	12 Months 2021-2022 Proposed Budget
	Actual	Actual	Actual to Date	
Income	July 18-June 19	July 19-Mar 20	Apr 20 to Oct 20	Apr 21 to Mar 22
Dues	17,120	19,580	17,420	24,675
Primary (\$70)		18,180	16,205	23,100
Additional (\$35)		1,350	1,190	1,575
Student		50	25	0
Fund Raising	4,628	4,867	5,695	6,500
Contribution Member		4,390	4,840	6,000
Donations		21		0
Merchandise Sales		372	855	500
Unclass. Fundraising Income		84		0
Grants	900	200		0
Other Income	1,898	1,373	2,720	200
Events		300		0
Fees		368		0
Name Tags		705	210	200
Unclass. Other Income		0	2,510	0
New Operating Income	24,546	26,020	25,835	31,375
Plan use of cash reserves				3,300
Total Income				34,675

Jerry Gilson, Treasurer

LWVJoCo 2021-2022
Proposed Operating Fund Budget

Page2

FINAL

	12 Months 2018-19	9 Months 2019- 2020	7 Months 2020- 2021	12 Months 2021-2022 Proposed Budget
	Actual	Actual	Actual to Date	
Expense	July 18-June 19	July 19-Mar 20	Apr 20 to Oct 20	Apr 21 to Mar 22
Delegates & Travel	0	2,100	200	200
National Meetings	0	2,100	200	0
State Meetings	0	1,350		200
Events	2,313	1,418		2,000
Annual Meeting		435		600
Holiday Party		696		700
Preview Party		245		200
Making Democracy Work		42		0
Unclass. Events Expense (Picnic)		0		500
Fundraising	169	91		400
Merchandise Cost		0		300
Sales Tax		91		100
Unclass Fundrais. Expense				0
Grant Expense	0	0		0
LWV Financial Support	10,347	11,943	12,535	16,770
National PMP (\$32 prim \$16 additional)		8,400	8,816	10,320
State (\$20 prim \$10 additional)		3,543	3,719	6,450
Meetings and Education	1,650	1,125	536	6,700
Committees		21		150
Equip. & Supply		0	314	300
General Meeting Venue			221	1,000
Other Meeting Venue (Zoom)				750
Printing				300
Refreshments & Hospitality		274		200
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)				4,000

Jerry Gilson, Treasurer

LWVJoCo 2021-2022
Proposed Operating Fund Budget

Page 3

FINAL

	12 Months 2018-19	9 Months 2019- 2020	7 Months 2020- 2021	12 Months 2021-2022 Proposed Budget
	Actual	Actual	Actual to Date	
Expense	July 18-June 19	July 19-Mar 20	Apr 20 to Oct 20	Apr 21 to Mar 22
Operating and Administration	950	1,789	1,957	3,955
Board Meeting Venue		0		0
Equipment and Supplies		255	17	300
Fees (Paypal)		513	200	200
Financial Review and Corp. Fees		160	40	200
Insurance		325	390	325
Membership Name Tags		0	228	300
PO Box Fee		42	118	130
Pres.& Board (Consultant Fee)		276		2,300
501 C-3 Conversion		0	674	0
Unclassified Other Admin. Exp		268	290	200
Promotional & Visibility	44	1,386	325	500
Sponsorships		225	325	500
Unclass. Promotional & Visibility		1,161		0
Technology & Communications	2,381	2,524	761	2,850
Annual Meeting Book		274		300
Membership Management Club Express		1,438	716	1,000
Printing & Postage		218		300
Video Recording		274		500
Website and Social Media		320	45	750
Unbudgeted Board Appr. Expense	0	0	1,000	0
Voter Services	1,457	1,231	5,340	1,300
Info/Forums, Coffees		162		300
Naturalization		369	303	300
Registration & Follow Up		700	5,037	700
Total Expense	19,311	23,607	22,654	34,675
Jerry Gilson, Treasurer				

LWV JoCo Account Balances 2020-2021

Operating Accounts	January 31, 2020	January 31, 2021
Checking	\$10,865.22	\$21,857.39
Certificate of Deposit	\$8,722.26	\$8,861.33
Total	\$19,587.48	\$30,718.72

2020 Account (LWV 100 th Anniversary)	\$12,518.92	\$0
LWVUS Education Fund (Restricted)	\$1,430.27	\$2,588.01
Total Assets	\$33,536.67	\$33,306.73

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 at <https://my.lwv.org/lwvus/positions>

Proposed Local Program for 2021-2022

Recommended study: None

Non-recommended study: None

2021-2022 Nominations Officers and Directors			
OFFICE		NOMINEE	TERM
President		Amber Stenger	1 year
Vice-President		Janet Milkovich	1 year
Secretary		Tinna Hung	2 years
Co-Directors Membership		Eileen Manza	1 year <i>Appointed to serve second year of a two-year term</i>
		Victoria Smith	
Co-Directors Voter Information		Marie Hernandez	2 years
		Debbie Kitchin	
Nominating Committee		Mary Lou Jaramillo	1 year
		Kathryn Hockley	
		Leslie Mark	

2020-2021 Nominating Committee: Karen Wulfkuhle, Chair; Kathleen Jennings, Danielle Keller, Donna Lauffer, Cathy Matlack.

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: Financial Review Report



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5609 W 97TH TERRACE
OVERLAND PARK KS 66207

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW

September 23, 2020

Mr. Jerry Gilson, Treasurer
League of Women Voters of Johnson County
P.O. Box 13491
Overland Park, KS 66282

Dear Mr. Gilson,

We have compiled the accompanying statements of financial position – modified cash basis of League of Women Voters of Johnson County, as of March 31, 2020, the related statement of financial activities – modified cash basis for the short year then ended, and the related statement of cash flows - modified cash basis for the short year then ended. We have not audited or reviewed the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance about whether the financial statements are in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting.

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting for designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements.

Our responsibility is to conduct the compilation in accordance with the Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The objective of a compilation is to assist management in presenting financial information in the form of financial statements without undertaking to obtain or provide any assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to the financial statements.

Management has elected to omit substantially all of the disclosures ordinarily included in financial prepared in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting. If the omitted disclosures were included in the financial statements, they might influence the user's conclusions about the organization's financial position, revenues, and expenses. Accordingly, these financial statements are not designed for those who are not informed about such matters.

Gregg Gehrig, MPA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONSULTING

Page 1

League of Women's Voters of Johnson County, KS Statement of Financial Position

Fiscal Year 2020 (Ending March 31, 2020 - A Short Yr) With
Comparison to Fiscal Year 2019 (Ending June 30, 2019)

(Cash Basis)

	6/30/2019 Balance	3/31/20 Balance
ASSETS		
Cash in Bank Accounts		
2020Account	9,051.15	500.00
LWVUSEdFund	870.27	1,361.27
LWVJoCo Operating	5,885.24	15,565.86
TotalCash	15,806.66	17,427.13
Investments		
2020CD1yr	-	-
2020CD5yr	-	-
OperatingCD1yr	8,638.35	8,759.86
Total Investments	8,638.35	8,759.86
TOTALCashandInvestments	24,445.01	26,186.99
TOTAL ASSETS	24,445.01	26,186.99
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Accounts Payable	0.00	0.00
Total Liabilities	0.00	0.00
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	23,574.74	24,825.72
Restricted - Education Fund	870.27	1,361.27
Total Net Assets	24,445.01	26,186.99
TOTALLIABILITIES&NETASSETS	24,445.01	26,186.99

League of Women's Voters of Johnson County, KS
Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets
Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 - A Short Year)
With Comparison to Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019)

REVENUES, GAINS AND PUBLIC SUPPORT	FY 2019	FY 2020
Contributions - Education Fund	\$ 715.00	\$ 860.00
Contributions - 2020 Account	1,350.00	6,240.00
Dues	17,120.00	19,580.00
Fund Raising	7,426.00	4,867.00
Grant Income		200.00
Event Income - 2020 Centennial Celebration		12,583.80
Other Income		1,622.79
Interest 2020 CD	89.57	-
Interest Operating CD	131.49	121.51
TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS AND PUBLIC SUPPORT	\$ 26,832.06	46,075.10
EXPENSES		
Delegates and Travel		
National Meetings	-	2,100.00
Events	2,482.72	1,418.14
2020 Centennial Celebration Expense	12,130.86	20,476.41
LWV Financial Support	10,347.50	11,943.25
Church Facilities	600.00	-
Committees	-	21.04
Room Use, Tables	125.00	1,079.59
Program, Portfolio Studies	770.35	-
Refreshments, Hospitality	154.48	274.30
Equipment, Supplies	-	254.25
Financial Review	-	100.00
Insurance	325.00	325.00
Membership	84.39	183.44
Miscellaneous	155.60	125.62
PayPal Fees	-	554.90
P O Box Rent	106.00	-
President and Board	239.10	276.42
State Corporation Fee	40.00	60.00
Promotional	43.65	1,386.47
Publications	2,380.79	217.89
Technology, Communications	-	2,305.77
Voter Service	1,456.81	1,230.63
TOTAL EXPENSES	31,442.25	44,333.12
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	(4,610.19)	1,741.98
NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR	29,055.20	24,445.01
NET ASSETS END OF YEAR	\$ 24,445.01	\$26,186.99

League of Women's Voters of Johnson County, KS
Statement of Cash Flows
Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 - A Short Year)
With Comparison to Fiscal Year 2019 (Ending June 30, 2019)

	FY 2019	FY 2020
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(4,610.19)	1,741.98
Transfer from LWVUS Ed Fund (944.21) (369.00)	(944.21)	(369.00)
Transfer to Operating Acc.	944.21	369.00
Transfer from Operating CD 1 Yr	(1,778.13)	-
Transfer to Operating Acc.	1,778.13	-
Transfer to (from) Operating Account	(300.00)	6,898.54
Transfer to (from) 2020 Account	300.00	(6,898.54)
	-	-
Total Transfers during the Year		
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(4,610.19)	1,741.98
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	29,055.20	24,445.01
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - END OF YEAR	24,445.01	26,186.99

Appendix B: Long Range Plan and Priorities

An organization's strategic plan seeks to make a difference in its community. As shown, LWVJoCo aspired to many improvements during the period. Where did we succeed? Where do we need improvement? It's up to future boards to address those questions as they contemplate creating the next long-range plan.

Vision: The LWVJoCo will be the “go to” organization for county residents to become informed about and engaged in their government and community issues.

Mission: The League of Women Voters of Johnson County, Kansas, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase civic understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. “Nonpartisan” means that LWVJoCo neither supports nor opposes candidates or political parties.

Note: In 2020, all Leagues, including LWVJoCo, added a second tenet concerning DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion). 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.

Goals:

- I. Membership: Attract, inspire, and retain members who reflect the diversity of our community
- II. Visibility: Communicate to members, leaders, partners, and the community our beliefs, what we do, and how to be involved.
- III. Education: Inform our community about public policy issues and the importance of voting in MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK® for all.
- IV. Political Action: Advocate with officials and candidates about public policy issues and hold them accountable for responsive, accessible, and transparent government.
- V. Infrastructure: Establish and maintain a nimble, informed, connected organization that is well-funded.

2020-2021 Priorities:

LWVJoCo had two priorities for this year. From March through November 2020, it was “Get Out The Vote” (GOTV). Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, our activities included:

- Organizing two Souls to the Polls car caravans in low-turnout precincts in Wyandotte County
- Distributing voter registration flyers and posters in both Johnson and Wyandotte counties
- Hosting two candidate forums with partner organizations in Johnson County and one in Wyandotte County, attracting over 1,200 live and later viewers
- Publicizing the online voter guide [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org)
- Using Voter to Voter relational software to reach friends, family
- Helping the Johnson County election office process thousands of mail ballots
- In December, GOTV leaders debriefed about what worked and what needed improvements. The debriefings were recorded and archived for use by future leaders.

After the November election, attention turned to public issues. The four legislative priorities for 2021 are:

- Expand Medicaid coverage (cover 150,000 more Kansans).
- People Powered Fair Maps campaign (implement a fair redistricting process)
- National Popular Vote for President (abolish the Electoral College).
- Government transparency (hold officials accountable for votes and actions).

Activities included:

January 21, 2021 workshop – “Advocacy Training for 2021: How to be Effective”

February 1, 2021 leadership meeting with U.S. Rep. Sharice Davids, D-Kansas, to discuss both LWVUS and LWVJoCo priorities.

February 6, 2021 program – “Gerrymandering & Fair Representation: What Kansans Need to Know”
Creating a People Powered Fair Maps field plan of action

For details about these and other activities, see the Officer and Committee Reports in this *Annual Report*. Members spent hundreds of hours researching, planning and carrying out tasks that help LWVJoCo continue its work of Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy.

Appendix C: Past Presidents

Presidents, League of Women Voters of Johnson County 1977-2020

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

Bylaws

2020 saw a major change to all state and local [League bylaws](#). The 2020 LWVUS national convention approved adopting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) as LWV's second policy, joining nonpartisanship. That change is mandatory for all state and local leagues, as each is "an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States" (Article I)

A change in Articles I, II or III of LWVUS' bylaws does not require any action or vote by a state or local League. As a result, our Bylaws, Article II now say:

"Sec. 2. The policies of LWVJoCo are:

1. Political Policy. LWVJoCo shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.
2. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy. LWVJoCo is fully committed to ensure compliance – in principle and in practice – with its Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy."

From its beginning, the League was nonpartisan in principle and practice. That has not been the case with diversity, equity and inclusion. Changing bylaws does not in any way alleviate the pain and suffering caused by decades of discrimination and systemic racism perpetuated by our country and organizations like ours. Instead, it is a small but important step. LWVJoCo's commitment is to imbed DEI in our League's culture.

In Memoriam

We are deeply saddened by the loss of these League members this past year. They each made a difference in so 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.

Gary Horst
Eleanor Lowe (lifetime member)
Robert Jefferis