

## LWV OF KENTUCKY

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Support HR 1, the For the People Act! See p. 2 for details**

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# The Kentucky Voter



VOLUME 6, ISSUE 4

SPRING 2019

## LWVKY Garners Publicity on Felony Disenfranchisement

By **CINDY HEINE**

The Kentucky League has been in the news this winter with stories relating to work on felony disenfranchisement.

Releasing our study *Felony Disenfranchisement in the Commonwealth: A Report of the League of Women Voters of Kentucky* in January generated lots of media interest. Between Dec. 6 and Feb. 3, the League was mentioned in numerous media stories including *THE APPEAL Political Report*, the *Lexington Herald-Leader*, *Insider Louisville*, the *Glasgow Daily Times*, *The Daily Independent* (Ashland), WKYT-TV Lexington, WHAS Louisville, WPSD Local 6 TV Paducah, and *Kentucky Forward*.

The Associated Press released a story that was picked up by the *Richmond Register*, the *Kentucky New Era* (Hopkinsville) and others. The *Herald-Leader* printed an op-ed by Sadie Bograd, LWV student member in Lexington, and issued an editorial supporting restoration of voting rights. Tri-State TV-WEHT in Evansville, IN, did a story crediting CNN

as its source. In addition, the stories and data have been shared widely on twitter and Facebook.

In November, Florida voters amended their constitution to restore voting rights to persons convicted of certain felonies, leaving Kentucky one of only three states that permanently disenfranchise these citizens. That has brought national attention to the Commonwealth. Judy Johnson, a Lexington League member who has



taken the lead on this issue for the state, has been interviewed by reporters from Reuters, *The Courier-Journal*, ThinkProgress, *The Appeal*, *The New York Times*, **(Cont'd on p. 3)**

## Convention to be in Hopkinsville

By **BONNIE LYNCH**

You won't want to miss this year's State Convention of the League of Women Voters of Kentucky! It will be in Hopkinsville from Friday, April 12, to Saturday, April 13.

In addition to a welcome by the mayor of Hopkinsville, League members will hear from law professor Joshua

Douglas, author of *Vote for US: How to Take Back Our Elections and Change the Future of Voting*. But, best of all, it's a chance for League members from across our state to meet in person and share memories and ideas!

We've made it easy for you to register with a form on p. 6 of this newsletter.

# President's Message



President Wanda  
"Bonnie" Lynch

**By BONNIE LYNCH**

We, the members of the Hopkinsville/Christian County League of Women Voters are planning an informative and fun weekend for all who attend the State Convention in April. (See p. 6.)

This is a chance to see what makes Hopkinsville so special. But it is also a chance to meet fellow League members from across the state, women and men who are devoted — as you are — to making democracy work for all of

us.

I am asking League members from across the state to make a special effort to attend. We promise that you will not be disappointed!

We are hoping to see everyone in "Hoptown" in April!

## HR1 Supports Election Reform

**By GEORGE SCHUHMAN**

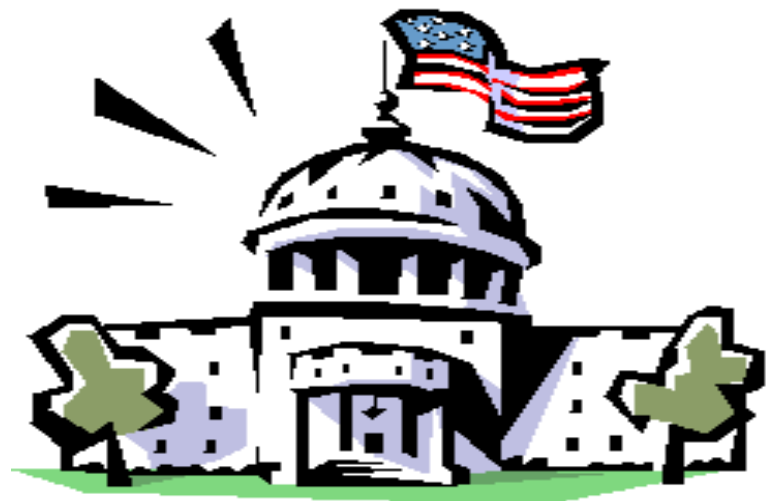
On Feb. 5, the League of Women Voters of the United States held a webinar for members to call in to find out about HR 1, the "For the People Act" introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives as a reform to clean up problems in our electoral system.

HR 1 has many provisions which the League supports, but there are some which, because the League has no existing position on the particular issue, we cannot support (although we are free as individuals to let our thoughts be known to our elected officials).

Below is a link to a recording of the webinar so that we can all be informed on the particulars that the League supports in HR 1. [Find it here.](#) (Note: the first 14:40 is

dead air time when the recording was on but no one was speaking. Please use your mouse or pointer on the strip at the bottom of the picture to skip that. The spoken part of the webinar lasts 47 minutes and can be paused at one's convenience.)

LWVUS maintains [talking points](#) for all Leagues to speak with one voice about HR 1. The national League has also provided us with some excellent talking points that we can use on social media and when conversing with friends and family. [Find those here.](#)

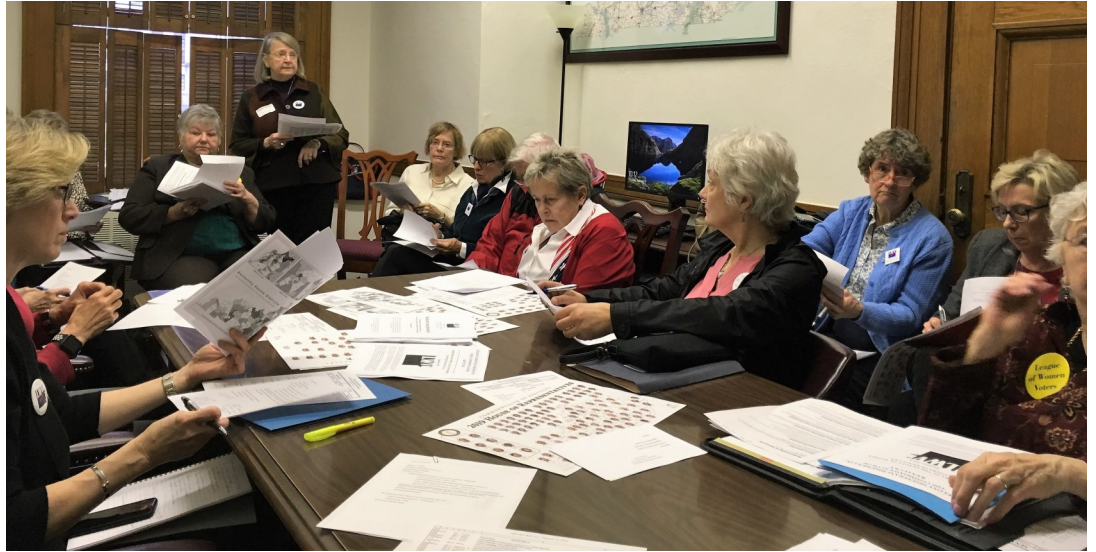


# LWV Makes News

(Cont'd from p. 1)

WLKY, the AP, the *Lexington Herald-Leader* and McClatchy. November stories in *The Courier-Journal* and *The New York Times* used League information.

“Talking with journalists, two things stand out—their dedication to getting the story of disenfranchisement out and keeping it alive until change is brought about and their confidence that information provided by the League is substantiated and nonpartisan,” said Johnson. “My contacts have reinforced my respect for writers who use their skills to focus public attention on an issue that demands remedy.”



League of Women Voters members from Louisville, Lexington, Bell County, and Northern Kentucky descended on Frankfort for League Day at the Capitol on Feb. 7. Photo by Ed Monahan

**See felony disenfranchisement report, p. 4.**



The Suffragist Choir took part in the festivities in Frankfort for League Day at the Capitol on Feb. 7. Photo by Cindy Heine

## LWV Has League Day at the Capitol

By MARY JO RODGERS

Kudos to the 25 members of the League of Women Voters of Kentucky who braved the rain and fog to meet in Frank-

fort for our Annual League Day at the Legislature on Feb. 7.

LWV members from Louisville, Lexington and at-large members from Kenton and Bell counties gathered to review the day’s agenda and listen to briefings on felon voting rights and Legislative Reapportionment by Cindy Heine, LWVKY Legislative Liaison, and Ed Monahan, a Lexington League member and executive director of the NAPD Fund for Justice.

Attendees adjourned to their legislative appointments and committee meetings. Home base was moved to the Dining Cafeteria, where the group randomly assembled, shared information, and got to know each

other.

Seven senators and representatives were visited: Representatives Dean Schamore, Reginald Meeks, Charles “Buddy” Wheatley, Tina Bojanawski and Wilson Stone, and Senators Alice Forgy Kerr and Denise Harper-Angel. Just as importantly, the League’s presence was recognized by fellow legislative visitors, members of the press, and other state personnel. Thank you to the Secretary of State’s office staff for their hospitality and the use of their conference room.

# LWVKY Works for Voter Re-enfranchisement

By **JUDY JOHNSON**

The Voter Disenfranchisement Committee has been in close communication with League of Women Voters of the United States. We updated staff, and they provided guidance preparing testimony for the hearing on HB91 (disenfranchisement of voters) in the House Committee on Elections, Constitutional Amendments, and Intergovernmental Affairs on Feb. 25. (See photo on page 5.)

President Bonnie Lynch, representing the state League, presented data from our January 2019 report on felony disenfranchisement. Kentucky has the highest rate of African-American disenfranchisement in the nation: 26.2 percent — more than one in four— cannot vote! Lynch clearly stated the League's support for HB 91 and the position that, once felons have completed the sentence mandated for the crime committed, their voting rights should be automatically restored. Others who testified were Amanda Hall of ACLU's Smart Justice, Tayna Fogle of Kentuckians For

The Commonwealth (KFTC) and Shelton McElroy of the Bail Project.

Bill sponsors Representatives George Brown, Jr. (D) of Lexington, Charles Booker (D) of Louisville and Jason Nemes (R) of Louisville, explained why they sponsored this bill. The committee was very receptive to testimony and supportive of the bill.

On Feb. 24, Cindy Heine and Judy Johnson represented the League at an initial meeting of a large and diverse voting rights coalition. Although several potential participants were absent due to poor weather, the group that gathered represented at least 20 organizations willing to make felony disenfranchisement a top priority. Among those present at the table were: the ACLU, Frankfort Anti-Racism, the Jewish Federation, the Kentucky Civil Engagement Table, the Bluegrass Activist Alliance, the NAACP, Together Frankfort, the Kentucky Equal Justice Center, KFTC, PAR (People Advocating Recovery) and the Black Caucus of Local Elected

Officials. It was a productive introductory meeting and the group plans to continue on a monthly basis, working toward a long term solution to disenfranchisement in Kentucky.

The committee now has an up-to-date tabulation of applications for restoration of voting rights from the beginning of Governor Matt Bevin's administration to Jan. 1, 2019. Applications sent to the governor by the Department of Corrections number 2,104; approvals sent from the governor to the Secretary of State number 1,230. That gives Bevin a rate of approval of 58 percent. And there is no way to know where the remaining 874 applications are or what will happen to them as more applications continue to be sent to the governor's office.

The League recommends that the governor provide a statement for why he approves — or denies — applications for the restoration of voting rights. Section 77 of the Kentucky Constitution calls for this explanation.



President Bonnie Lynch was among those testifying on behalf of HB 91 on Feb. 25.

# Redistricting

By SUSAN WESTON

Redistricting state, congressional and judicial districts is just a few years away, with 2020 census data expected to be released in 2021 and redistricting likely to happen in 2022. Seeking a more transparent process and fairer district lines, League members have met with a number of legislators in recent weeks. Representative Joni Jenkins filed HB 482 to create a “Legislative Advisory Reapportionment and Redistricting Commission” on February 21, opening an important window for change this session, and we hope to be able to collaborate with her and others on the issue.

We also want to build statewide discussion on these issues: members of the Redistricting Subcommittee want to speak to your League, as well as civic, church and community groups. We’re finalizing slides, handouts, and talking points now, so we’ll be ready when you are. If you know a potential venue for these conversations, please do let us know. Letters to the editor and op-eds can also be a big help. For speakers or sample op-eds and letters, contact us at [KentuckyLWV@gmail.com](mailto:KentuckyLWV@gmail.com).



KY LWV President Bonnie Lynch (second from right) testified before the House Elections, Constitutional Amendments and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee in Frankfort. She spoke about HB 91, a bill that would place an amendment on the ballot to automatically restore voting rights to persons convicted of a felony on completion of full sentencing. Also testifying were (left to right) Shelton McElroy of the Bail Project, Amanda Hall of ACLU’s Smart Justice and Tayna Fogle of KFTC. LWV member Cindy Heine was available to provide background if needed. Photo by Judy Johnson

## LWV of Kentucky Education Committee Report

By Terry Naydan and Nita Smith

We met with Pat Murrell and Leslie Marcellino of the Louisville Education Committee last week to discuss education bills that will be voted upon in this short legislative session (30 days) as well as other concerns about public school education today.

SBI - School Safety Bill-calls for more safety resource officers (SROs) and mental health professionals in the schools where needed and when funds are available. One concern of ours is that sending security officers in first in a nonviolent confrontation could escalate the chance for violence in some urban schools. This bill has passed both chambers.

SB3-this bill changes the status of school based decision making councils (SBDM). More power is given to administrators. For example, principals would be hired by superintendents. This bill has passed the Senate and been sent to the House. A companion bill that has already passed the Senate and been sent to the House is SB8 which revisits procedures for terminating teacher contracts.

HB14 & HB17-these bills would repeal charter schools. Both bills have been assigned to the House Education Committee.

HB11 & SB 27-these bills would not allow smoking or tobacco products to be used by anyone in any public school in Kentucky. Sent to Health and Family Services Committee in the House and sent to Education Committee in the Senate.

Several League members also replied to Education Commissioner Lewis’s call for public comments on new graduation requirements. We all wanted to know if final decisions were research based and the source of the research.

We plan to visit with Commissioner Lewis whenever he can see us to discuss education concerns.

**Call to 2019 League of Women Voters of Kentucky Convention in Hopkinsville  
Register Today!**

**Friday, April 12 The Hopkinsville-Christian County Public Library – 1101 Bethel St., Hopkinsville**

- 5:30 to 6:30 Welcome by Mayor – Program by UK Law Professor, Joshua Douglas, author of *Vote for US: How to Take Back Our Elections and Change the Future of Voting*
- 6:30 to 6:45 Book signing
- 6:45 to 7:00 Social/informal gathering of League members
- 7:00 Catered dinner for LWV members – Spotlight on the Museum w/Alissa Keller, Ex. Director

**Own transportation to hotel – Comfort Suites of Hopkinsville, 210 Harvey Way, Hopkinsville**

**Sat., April 13 Comfort Suites Meeting Room**

- 7:30 to 8:30 Breakfast/Registration
- 9:00 to 10:45 Convention called to order - Business meeting – Session 1
- 10:45 to 10:55 Spotlight on local elected officials
- 10:55 to 11:10 Fast break
- 11:10 to 11:20 Spotlight on local elected officials
- 11:05 to 12:05 Workshop 1 – Melissa Currence
- 12:05 to 12:50 Boxed lunches provided by Southern Belle Catering  
Workshop 2 – 501 (c)(3) Discussion led by Dan Kemp
- 2:45 to 1:00 Spotlight on local elected officials
- 1:00 to 1:15 Fast break
- 1:15 to 1:25 Spotlight on local elected officials
- 1:25 to 3:00 Business meeting – Session 2
- 3:00 Convention adjourned
- 3:00 to 3:45 New board meets to schedule next board meeting

**Thanks for coming to Hopkinsville!**

Convention Registration Fee : \$50.00 includes Friday evening program and dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch, snacks and meeting materials. For more information, contact Bonnie at (270) 881-2574 or [wandabonnie@bellsouth.net](mailto:wandabonnie@bellsouth.net)

For overnight accommodations, contact Comfort Suites, Hopkinsville at (270) 226-4267. Be sure to mention you are with the LWV. Rooms are \$99 per night plus taxes.

**2019 League of Women Voters Convention Registration DEADLINE - April 5th**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Local League \_\_\_\_\_

Regular meals \_\_\_\_\_ or Vegetarian meals \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Convention Registration Fee (includes all meals) \_\_\_\_\_ \$35.00 for Saturday attendance only

\_\_\_\_\_ Additional Gift to the League

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed

Make checks payable to the League of Women Voters of Kentucky. Complete form and mail with payment to:  
Martha White, 503 East Lake Road, Gracey, KY 42232

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KENTUCKY  
GENERAL FUND PROPOSED BUDGET, 2018-2019**

	2017-18 ACTUAL	2018-19 BUDGET	2019-20 PROPOSED
<b>INCOME</b>			
Fund-raising Auction	409.16	400	400
Fund-raising Letter	910	1,000	1,000
Member Contributions	30	150	150
PMP	2,872.50	3,500	4,500
State Council	-	300	300
State KALM Dues	200	500	650
New League Support	8,877.26		
Other	60		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$13,358.92</b>	<b>\$5,850</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Advocacy	177.85	200	1,400
Board Expense	210.18	200	200
Committees	90.27		100
Fund-raising Expense	147	200	300
General Admin	125.31	150	150
<i>Kentucky Voter</i>	196	450	450
LWW Brochures	-	100	100
Meetings General		150	
National Council	2,500	2,000	2,000
Office Rent	168.50	200	205
Postage	-	100	150
President's Travel	-	500	500
Publicity	-	100	250
Secretary of State	15		15
State Council Expense	-	-	
Supplies	366.98	115	250
Telephone (split)	285.50	285	280
Voter Svcs/Candidate Forum	-	200	400
Website	-	100	100
With 1 Voice	101.95	100	150
Other	150	700	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,534.24</b>	<b>\$5,350</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>
<b>Net Difference</b>	<b>(52.58)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KENTUCKY  
EDUCATION FUND PROPOSED BUDGET, 2018-2019**

	2016-17 ACTUAL	2017-18 BUDGET	2018-19 PROPOSED
<b>INCOME</b>			
Fund-raising Letter	760	650	1,000
Member Contributions	140	100	100
Other	50		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$950</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>\$1,100</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Secretary of State	15	15	15
General Admin	85.52	-	100
Office Rent (split)	168.50	200	205
Program Study	-	250	500
Telephone (split)	287.48	285	280
Other	50		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$606.50</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>\$1,100</b>
<b>Net Difference</b>	<b>343.50</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

# Nominating Committee Report for 2019 Convention

The Nominating Committee of the League of Women Voters of Kentucky submits the following slate of officers serve as State Board Directors for fiscal year 2019-2020:

- President: Fran Wagner, Louisville
- First Vice President: Dee Pregliasco, Louisville
- Second Vice President: Bonnie Lynch, Hopkinsville
- Treasurer: Richard Heine, Lexington

In addition, we propose that the following three members be elected as non-board members to serve on the 2019-2020 Nominating Committee:

- Terry Naydan, chair, Lexington
- Anita Simmons, Hopkinsville
- Barbara Kelty, Louisville

- Submitted by:
- Richard Heine, chair, Lexington
  - Barbara Kelty, Louisville
  - Terry Naydan, Lexington
  - Anita Simmons, Hopkinsville
  - Fran Wagner, Louisville

# State Council Delegates

While we encourage everyone to come to the State Convention, each local league (including state administered) is allocated a certain number of voting delegates who are to be chosen by their local league. According to our by-laws, voting members at Convention shall be:

- Officers and directors of the LWVKY
- Local league presidents (or their designated alternate)

In addition to the above, each local and state administered league is entitled to one delegate for the first 10 members, one delegate for every 10 additional members up to 50, and one delegate thereafter for every 20 additional members.



## League of Women Voters of Kentucky

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Email: kentuckylwv@gmail.com

Facebook: League of Women Voters of Kentucky

Return Service Requested

### 2018–19 LWV KY OFFICERS

President: Bonnie Lynch, Hopkinsville  
First Vice-President: Fran Wagner, Louisville  
Second Vice-President: Donna Blue, Lexington  
Secretary: Harriette Seiler, Louisville  
Treasurer: Donna McIntyre, Hopkinsville

### DIRECTORS

Soraya Assar, Greenville  
Cindy Heine, Lexington  
Joan Lindop, Louisville  
Terry Naydan, Lexington  
Mary Jo Rodgers, Louisville  
Steve Senft, Lexington  
Nita Smith, Lexington

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Richard Heine, Lexington, chair  
Barb Kelty, Louisville  
Mary Jo Rogers, Louisville  
Anita Simmons, Hopkinsville  
Fran Wagner, Louisville

### KY VOTER EDITORS

Soraya Assar, Greenville  
Ivonne Rovira, Louisville



## Calendar

**Monday, April 22:** Last day to register to vote in the primary

**Tuesday, May 21:** Primary Election Day

**Friday, April 12, to Saturday, April 13:** League of Women Voters of Kentucky State Convention, Hopkinsville