

LWV OF KENTUCKY

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The Kentucky Voter

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KY LWV Hosts Debates for State Offices

Gubernatorial Debate in Lexington—October 15

A televised debate for the office of governor of Kentucky will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 15 at the University of Kentucky's Singletary Center for the Arts.



Candidates Matt Bevin and Andy Beshear have confirmed their participation in the event co-sponsored by the UK Student Government Association (SGA), the League of Women Voters of Kentucky, Gray Television and its TV stations serving Kentucky. Moderators for the event are news anchors Bill Bryant of WKYT and Shannon Cogan of WAVE.

Voters across the Commonwealth can view the debate LIVE from 7 to 8 p.m. Eastern Time and 6 to 7 p.m. Central Time on the following Gray Television stations: WKYT in Lexington, WAVE in Louisville, WBKO-FOX in Bowling Green, WYMT in

Louisville & WLKY Sponsor Three Debates in October

The KY League, in partnership with WLKY, will sponsor three candidate debates for statewide constitutional offices in Louisville during October. All debates will be broadcast and live-streamed by WLKY.

Oct. 17, 7-7:30 pm: Secretary of State Candidates Michael Adams and Heather French Henry

Oct. 17, 7:30-8 pm: Attorney General Candidates Daniel Cameron and Greg Stumbo

Oct. 26, 8-9 pm: Governor Candidates Matt Bevin and Andy Beshear.

The gubernatorial debate will be held at Bellarmine University and broadcast live.

Hazard, and TriState's CW in Huntington, W.VA.

The debate will be livestreamed on TV station websites: WBKO in Bowling Green, KFVS in Cape Girardeau, WXIX in Cincinnati, WFIE in Evansville, WVLT in Knoxville, WYMT in Hazard; WSAZ in Huntington; WKYT in Lexington; and WAVE in Louisville. It will also be available after the fact at WKYT.com with links at lwvky.org.

President's Message



Photo by Jenn Jackson

**President
Fran Wagner**

BY FRAN WAGNER

Democracy isn't a spectator sport. We can't be bystanders who scoff at the process of politics while taking no responsibility. If democracy is to flourish in Kentucky, we are called to vote, to inform ourselves about the issues of the day, to engage in serious conversation about the Commonwealth's future, and to listen to various perspectives.

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky is committed to enabling citizens to be informed and empowered voters. In this issue of *The Voter*, you'll learn two ways that we are providing valuable nonpartisan information about the November General Election: Candidate debates and VOTE411.

If the LWVKY is to be a major catalyst for an informed and active electorate, our own membership must increase and better reflect the Commonwealth's diverse population. For that reason, at its September meeting the Board of Directors, adopted the following:

POLICY ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky is fully committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in our organization. These principles are central to the League's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities and policymakers to create a more perfect democracy.

Pursuant to the goals of diversity, equity and inclusion, the LWVKY commits to recruit, mentor and retain members and leaders who represent a broad spectrum of people, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious belief, ability and being differently-abled, socioeconomic status, rural and urban locale, and political affiliation.

Finally, thanks to all the League members who are working with such dedication and expertise for a more perfect democracy. As the articles in this *Voter* will attest, democracy isn't a spectator sport to Kentucky League members!

Change is coming!

BY Soraya Assar

With a new year, the newsletter will now be delivered in your inbox, not your mailbox! This newsletter is the second to last newsletter in hard copy only. As we discussed at convention this year, the *Voter* will transition to a digital format in January 2020. With the digital transition, LWV KY is making a concerted effort to attract new members with an increased social media footprint. A Communications Committee has been formed to improve and expand our external communications, including enhancing our social media presence.

The committee's first major goal is to revamp the LWVKY website, anticipated go live on January 1, 2020. We will increase our presence on Facebook, Twitter, and add Instagram to our social media repertoire. Committee members are Soraya Assar (Hopkinsville); Sadie Bograd, Cindy Heine, and Jenn Jackson (Lexington); and Harriette Seiler, Patty Kannapel, and Zoe Schaver (Louisville).

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Learn About the Candidates

KY Supreme Court District 1 Candidate Forum

Kentucky Supreme Court Candidates from District I will meet in a forum in Hopkinsville City Hall Chamber on Wednesday, October 16 at 4:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Hopkinsville.

The two candidates are Judge Christopher Shea Nickell from Paducah who is currently serving on the Court of Appeals in Western Kentucky, and Senator Whitney Westerfield, a Hopkinsville lawyer serving in the Kentucky Senate since elected in 2012.

Their names will be on the ballot on November 5 to replace Justice Bill Cunningham who retired this year. The forum is open to the public and will be televised for the local government channel and aired on other media.



The League's [online voter guide](http://VOTE411.org), VOTE411, will go live October 8. Launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund, this web-based system is a one-stop shop for election information. VOTE411 can be accessed on cell phones, laptops, or tablets and is a good way for citizens to learn about statewide candidates for Constitutional offices. It offers a 'job description' for each of the state offices and responses of candidates who choose to respond to our questions. It also allows citizens to check their voter registration status and polling location.

Con't from p . 2

Soraya as a board member and Patty Kannapel, off board, are coordinating this committee work. Zoe has agreed to serve as webmaster. Sadie and Harriette will spearhead our social media strategy. Jenn is providing expertise as webmaster for the Lexington League. Cindy has been working on many of these projects over the years and will continue to help as needed. We look forward to an increased electronic presence for the League in Kentucky.

Let us know if you have ideas for the committee or want to support our work. Good things are coming your way!
Soraya.Assar@gmail.com

TAKE ACTION!

Tell Congress to Act to Prevent Gun Violence!

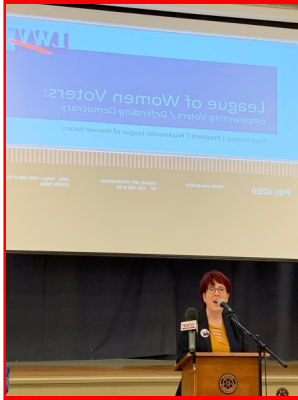
Go to [TAKE ACTION at
LWV.org](http://TAKE ACTION at LWV.org)
for more details.

Busy Election Season for Local Leagues

The Hopkinsville League of Women Voters has spent the past month focused on a county-wide voter registration drive and providing a community forum for Kentucky Supreme Court candidates. We have had voter registration booths/tables at the:

- Hopkinsville Summer Salute weekend festival
- Jeffers Bend Nature Walk
- Local HHS/CCHS football game

National Voter Registration Day was an active day for the Hopkinsville League with voter registration tables at both local high schools and at the YMCA. President Gaye Haynes spoke to the Hopkinsville Rotary Club about LWV initiatives and activities, how to use govoteky.com, and Vote411.org. We have had many requests for voter registration information from local churches and other civic groups, and several of our members are working to supply that information.



President Gaye Haynes speaking at the Hopkinsville Rotary



Carolyn Self and her granddaughter Audrey Self in Murray.

Hopkinsville



Amelia Stewart and Fannie Louise Maddox in Murray.



April Cotthoff and her daughter at the Jeffers Bend Nature Walk booth

Women’s Equality Day/Louisville



Pat Murrell, LWV Louisville president and Andrea Caldwell, former LWVL vice-president at Women’s Equality Day.

The Louisville League celebrated the 99th anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment at the Frazier Museum on August 24 with 400 in attendance. This event paves the way to the 100th anniversary of the founding of The League of Women Voters of the U.S. and Louisville. Co-sponsors were event host, the Frazier History Museum and the Louisville Metro Office for Women along with 60 community organizations. The featured speaker was Coline Jenkins, great, great granddaughter of Elizabeth Candy Stanton. [Click here for photos](#) taken from this 3rd Women's Equality Day Celebration .

Lexington

The Lexington League has been busy providing voter registration at more than 10 events, including one naturalization ceremony. Our increased visibility in the community is helping the LWV to be at the top of people's minds when it comes to non-partisan voter registration: recently we have received calls from local organizations requesting our presence at their events. We also held 3 voter registration trainings for 6 volunteers and are looking forward to Get-out-The-Vote efforts this fall.

We hosted a forum on September 29 for two local races to fill vacancies on the school board and the Circuit Court. Citizens were able to meet the candidates and submit questions. Our co-sponsor, the Lexington Public Library, hosted the forums in their Main Branch Library and posted videotapes of the forums on YouTube.

We are hosting the October 15 gubernatorial debate on behalf of LWV KY. Candidates for Lt. Governor were invited to an Oct. 1 debate. Although Republican Ralph Alvarado agreed to participate, Democrat Jacqueline Coleman was not available that day, so the event was cancelled.

Murray/Calloway County



League members Judy Brookhiser and Effie Kemp staff a Calloway County Voter Registration table located outside the Angel’s Attic Thrift Store in Murray.

Lexington League members Jenn Jackson and Toni Reiss register voters at the Latino Festival.





BY NIKKI CHAMBERS, Environmental Director

The KYLWV's environmental program this year is focused on the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO). Recently, ORSANCO voted to make pollution control standards on the Ohio River voluntary on a state-by-state basis, thus loosening the previously mandated pollution control measures. The League of Women Voters sent ORSANCO a statement (see box at right) expressing our displeasure with the change, noting that an overwhelming majority of the public favors minimum over voluntary standards. As it reads, the standards loosened the regulations that ORSANCO mandates for pollution control.

ORSANCO's response (see box) stated that all Ohio River uses are protected, and ORSANCO's Pollution Control Standards remain in effect for state utilization consistent with their state laws and administrative programs.

Despite ORSANCO's revision to the Pollution Control Standards, we believe that Ohio River waterways remain safe through each state's environmental program, the Clean Water Act and the federal EPA guidelines.

Redistricting goal 'Fair Maps'

BY Dee Pregliasco

The Redistricting Committee has been hard at work meeting and reviewing possible bills to be introduced in the 2020 legislative session, once a sponsor or sponsors are found. Our goal is to have a bill that provides for creation of a "citizen" focused group to hold hearings across Kentucky. This citizen focused group would propose redistricting plans necessitated by the data derived from the 2020 Census data, expected to be released sometime in 2021.

Our resident expert, Susan Weston, along with the ever-hardworking Cindy Heine, have devoted hours to analyzing the language, implications, and potential roadblocks any proposed bill might engender. Susan has dubbed me the mediator of all the discussions, including those with legislators on both sides of the aisle.

After the 2010 Census, redistricting resulted in a closed process with litigation, less bi-partisan support, and districts that defy reason divided cities and counties where voters share common interests. The current redistricting effort hopes to prevent those issues from recurring. In addition to reviewing proposed legislation, the Redistricting Committee plans to visit citizens' organizations statewide to educate the populace on the Redistricting issue and how legislation can ensure a fair redistricting process. Our goal is to have an open process that results in "fair maps"!

The Committee has met with the State Chamber of Commerce to discuss our goals and to enlist the State and individual Chambers' across the state to help with our efforts. We hope that Rotary and other civic clubs will be additional places for programs/discussions on redistricting.

LWV Environmental Report

President Fran Wagner's letter to ORSANCO:

I'm writing to express the strong disappointment of the League of Women Voters of Kentucky in ORSANCO'S decision to make pollution control standards on the Ohio River voluntary. The Commission's disregard for the overwhelming public support for maintaining at least the minimum standards is disheartening.

This change in standards greatly jeopardizes the safety of waterways in the eight states affected by this decision, including Kentucky. We fear this decision will have a lasting and devastating impact that runs counter to the very reason ORSANCO was created.

Excerpt from ORSANCO's Chairman John Kupke's Response

The combination of the State's rigorous USEPA approved permitting programs required by the Clean Water Act and ORSANCO's continued monitoring of pollutants in the Ohio River will provide for the continued protection of the Ohio River. The amended PCS also preserves the PCS to guide ORSANCO activities when addressing future water quality issues within the mainstem Ohio River.

Thank you again for taking the time to express your organizations concerns for the Ohio River water quality. As Chairman of ORSANCO, I can assure you that the Commission remains very committed to fulfilling its very important mission to maintain Ohio River's water quality, and if anything to enhance the river's water quality. Please let me know if you would like to discuss this further.

Lexington League Nominates Fayette County Teacher for Harvard Workshop



Judy Johnson 1939-2019

Judy Johnson, long time member of the Lexington League, passed away September 8, after a short battle with cancer. Judy served the Lexington League as a board member, *Voter* editor, and essay contest chair. She stepped up whenever there was a need. She was always available with a smile and great enthusiasm whether she was helping with voter registration, candidate forums and so much more. Judy was new to the state Board, coming on as Chair of the Felony Disenfranchisement Committee. Her relentless pursuit of data on the number of persons convicted of felonies seeking restoration of voting rights was invaluable to updating our reports on felony disenfranchisement. Judy will be missed as a dear friend and exemplary member of the League.

The League of Women Voters (LWV) of Lexington nominated Lafayette High School U. S. History teacher Stevie Lemons for participation in a Harvard University workshop August 18- 20 on the use of case study methods to teach high school civics. The workshop was taught by Professor David Moss of Harvard Business School who pioneered the Harvard Case Study Method to teach U. S. history, democracy and civics. The method became the primary teaching strategy in the Harvard Business School, and Professor Moss began teaching the method to high school teachers. Last summer, the Business School partnered with the LWV of Greenwich, CT to offer the workshop to local high school teachers selected by the League. This pilot effort was so successful that the national LWV invited individual League chapters to nominate 1-2 outstanding teachers from their local districts to participate in the 2019 workshop.

The LWV of Lexington selected Ms. Lemons based on an essay about her passion for civic engagement and followup phone interview. The final step in the selection process was an interview with the Harvard Case Method Project Team.

The 2 ½ day workshop engaged teachers in intensive study of key episodes of US History including the writing of the Constitution, division over slavery, and concepts of justice and liberty throughout our history. Ms. Lemons described the experience as “incredible and captivating.” Ms. Lemons, along with other workshop participants, agreed to teach at least four cases from Professor Moss’s book, *Democracy: A Case Study* in her classroom this year and help moderate a community case discussion with LWV of Lexington next spring or summer.

Con’t from p. 6

The Louisville League presented a Redistricting program in 2018 where Susan and Cindy shared highlights of an extensively-researched report they developed, which we now consider our “Bible” on the issue. The Redistricting committee is asking members to [familiarize themselves with the report](#) and discuss the redistricting issue with friends, family and others. We need thousands of people to bring this to the public’s attention. Louisville is continuing to focus on this issue, and we need to move it out into the State, ASAP! Please help us schedule educational sessions and discussions across the state by sharing appropriate community contacts.

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Calendar

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| Oct. 5 | LWV KY Board conference call at 10:00 a.m. |
| Oct. 9-10 | People Powered Fair Maps Campaign Conference in DC |
| Oct. 15 | Governor Debate at UK, Lexington |
| Oct. 16 | Hopkinsville Forum for District 1 Supreme Court Candidates |
| Oct. 17 | Secretary of State & Attorney General Debates broadcast on WLKY |
| Oct. 26 | Governor Debate at Bellarmine, Louisville |
| Nov. 16 | LWV KY Board meeting 1:30, Lang House, Louisville |

Kentucky VOTER Editor: Soraya Assar