



**IN LEAGUE REPORTER – JANUARY 2010**  
**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. LOUIS**  
**8706 Manchester Road, Ste. 104, St. Louis, MO 63144**  
**314.961.6869                      www.lwvstl.org**

**From the President:**

I hope everyone had the happiest and most special Holidays ever. The year 2009 ended on an honored and special note for the League of Women Voters Information Service. Janet and Bernard Becker have given the League a gracious and sustaining contribution from their foundation, the Horncrest Foundation. It will enable the Information Service to better serve the community with educational programs and enlarge our voter service information among other activities. Janet is one of those very special League members who has and continues to work for the League in any and all ways.

We finished the year with the Holiday Luncheon, a successful event, and fun was had by all. The speaker reminded us of some of the historic characters in St. Louis, including suffragists, which enabled others to share some stories they had of Edna Gelhorn. The silent auction was fun with ardent bidding between some members for the same item --- the last bid always wins, but there were not any losers!

Plan on attending the next League meeting whether it is a unit or our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – they too will be fun!

I look forward to seeing everyone in 2010, anticipating the future of the League as we continue with the celebration of our 90 years.

*Linda C. McDaniel*

**2009-2010 LWV ST. LOUIS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Officers**

Co-Pres. Linda C. McDaniel  
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 2<sup>nd</sup> V. P. Pat Jones  
 Mary Long  
 3<sup>rd</sup> V.P. Enid Tennenbaum  
 Sec’y. Mary Beth Reynolds  
 Treas. Cindy Mitchell

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 Eve Golden  
 Kathleen Kelly  
 Katharine Kilpatric  
 Marty Ott  
 Marty Rulo  
 Sydell Shayer  
 Newsletter Ed. Nancy Miller

<b>CALENDAR</b>						
Fri.	Jan	7	10 am	Health Care Committee	Pg. 5	Cape Albion,
Fri.	Jan	8	10 am	International Relations Comm.	Pg. 6	St Louis Cnty Lib. Hdqtrs
	Jan	9-14		Unit Meetings	Pg. 9-10	
Tues.	Jan	12	7 pm	Environmental Quality Comm.	Pg. 5	League Office
Sat.	Jan	16	9:30am	Education Committee	Pg. 5	League Office
Wed.	Jan	20	6 pm	Pizza & Politics	Pg. 2	Sunnen Lounge, Webster U
	Dec.	24 – Jan. 1		Office Closed - Holidays		

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **PIZZA AND POLITICS SERIES**

Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of St. Louis, FOCUS St. Louis, and Holden Public Policy Center at Webster University

Join Us at 6 pm in the Sunnen Lounge, University Center, Webster University



*Upcoming Presentation:*

**The Honorable Judge Richard Teitelman, Missouri Supreme Court, Wed., Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>**

For more information, call *Nancy Thompson* at 314.423.2312.

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**Women's Issues Legislative Retreat**  
Jefferson City

**Friday and Saturday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>**

Learn how legislators make an impact in Jefferson City and what can be expected from the 2010 Legislative Session. Sponsored by the Missouri Women's Network. For more information email [sbreeze@mindspring.com](mailto:sbreeze@mindspring.com) or [gbutler1111@aol.com](mailto:gbutler1111@aol.com)

**SILENT AUCTION/ 50-50 REPORT**

The Holiday Luncheon Silent Auction and 50/50 were huge successes! The combined income from the two money raisers was \$1039. This was made possible by the generous participants at the luncheon, the worker bees and the contributors. The event itself was orchestrated and produced by Pat Jones, Eve Golden, Becky Clausen, Linda McDaniel, Doris Buzzell and Cindy Mitchell. Well-done Ladies!

A special thank-you to these individuals who contributed to the Silent Auction: Barbara Elbrecht, Pat Jones, Mary Long, Kathy Maret, Sheri Brimer, Debbie Howard, Agnes Garino, Suzanne Kirkpatrick, Sydell Shayer, Nancy Miller, Patsy Farrior, Marge Courtney, Judith Smart, Becky Clausen, Linda McDaniel, Doris Buzzell, Jo Ann Hughes, Dixie Buford, Steve Mennerick, Tamara Hershey, Jeanne Morrel-Franklin, Anne Bader, Marty Ott, Susan Fluegel, Jill Schupp, Dianne Modrell, Anna Mennerick, Crochet Artisan (mystery).

The League depends on the continuing largess and volunteer hours of members such as these, many thanks.

## **Watch Our Membership Grow!**

Our League needs twenty –four new League members by January 29th to qualify for an additional delegate to the League’s national convention. We may send three but we surely would like to send four. An under tapped source for new members is in our own household. For \$20 dollars over regular dues, any member of your household, spouse, daughter, son, mother or other resident who is a citizen, 18 years or older may become a member. So many of the members of our households are supportive of our League activities, joining themselves is a natural next step.

I just counted the number of household members we have and to my surprise there are 39 such members. That is great but we can even do better. Please ACT today. Send a check for \$20 to the League office, LWVSTL, 8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144. Give them the name of your household member.

*Sydell Shayer*

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

Are you interested in a fascinating short term project? There are several recordings of interviews with League leaders that we would like to have transcribed. They will come to you in the form of a CD and we would like the interviews in the final form of a word document. If you or anyone you know might be able to help us out please contact Anna at the office – 314.961.6869 or [AnnaMennerick@lwwstl.org](mailto:AnnaMennerick@lwwstl.org)

*Anna Mennerick*

# **COMMITTEES AT WORK**



## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The Education Committee will be meeting on Saturday, January 16th at 9:30 a.m. at the League office.

*Marty Rulo, Chair*

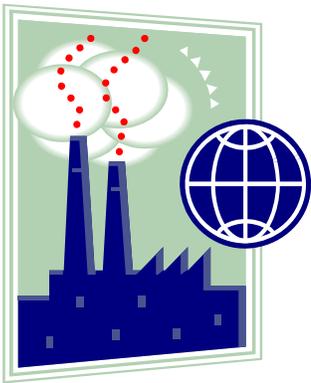


## **HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE**

The Health Care Committee will meet in January on Thursday January 7th at 10:00 am. We will meet at Cape Albeon in the Family Dining Room. Anyone needing directions can call Katharine at 636.861.7148. Since legislation is still not complete on health care reform please inform me of any issues you would like to have placed on the agenda for discussion and /or action.

*Katharine Kilpatric, Chair*

## **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE**



The Environmental Quality Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at the League office.

*Nancy Bowser, Chair*

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

The International Relations Committee will meet on Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, at the St Louis County Library Headquarters at 10am.

*Judith Smart, IR Chair*



## EARLY VOTING CONSENSUS STUDY COMMITTEE

*The committee will be providing a brief preview at the Unit meetings in January: consensus study in February, 2010.*

In preparation for our EV Consensus Study in February, the following information on “Early Voting in Surrounding States” may be helpful to better understand the different voting procedures in other states.

The rationale for voting on the first Tuesday after the first Monday was established in 1845 when the United States had a farm-oriented workforce. Farmers often needed a full day to travel by horse drawn vehicles to their county seat. Tuesday was selected as it did not interfere with the Biblical Sabbath or with market day, which was on Wednesday in many towns. However, according to the U.S. EPA (Ag 101) there is less than 1 percent of the U.S. Population of 285 million that claim farming as their principal occupation. We are now looking at this legacy of our political past and considering new options that meet the demands of a modern, mobile society that is tech-savvy and asks for convenience because of work and family demands.

In the 2008 election over 30% of the electorate cast ballots before the traditional Tuesday Election Day.

**33** states allow no-excuse absentee voting by mail and/or no excuse in-person early voting.

**16** states and the District of Columbia require an excuse absentee voting

**1** state is all vote-by mail

Source: electiononline.org analysis of state law, state election web sites

The following is a summary of the voting procedures of Missouri and the 8 states surrounding us which are Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Tennessee.

**Missouri**- allows only absentee voting-excuse required. To vote by mail, voters must apply for an absentee ballot and complete a form, checking one of five acceptable reasons why they will not be able to vote on Election Day. To be counted, all mail in absentee ballots must be notarized. In-person excuse required absentee voting is allowed 6 weeks before an election at the local election authority’s central office. Permanently disabled individuals may request to be placed on a list to receive an application for each election. The permanently disabled voters are automatically sent an absentee application between 5 and 10 weeks prior to an election. The application must be received no later than 5 p.m. the Wednesday prior to an election to receive a ballot.

**Arkansas**-Absentee voting by mail - no excuse required; No-excuse in-person early voting available 15 days before, including Saturday hours 10 to 4 pm.

**Illinois**-Absentee voting by mail requires an excuse-you can apply 40 days before election for a ballot. No excuse in person early voting is available 22 days before the election requiring a valid photo ID and closes the 5th day before Election Day. Permanent absentee status is not available.

**Iowa** -Absentee Voting by mail – no excuse required. Voters may vote by absentee ballot in person beginning 40 days before primary and general elections. Iowa offers Election Day or same day voter registration.

**Kansas**-Using an advance voting application, a registered voter can vote by mail or in person before Election Day. The advance voting ballot can be cast by mail or in person.

**Kentucky**-Absentee voting by mail-excuse required: in person absentee-excuse required 12 days or more before Election Day. In person absentee voting adds a few more valid excuses like third trimester pregnancy, voters who have surgery scheduled that day, and election officials.

**Nebraska**- Absentee voting by mail does not require an excuse—request forms accepted 120 days prior to Election Day. In-person absentee voting is open for 35 days before any statewide Election and 15 days before a special election. Permanent absentee status is not available.

**Oklahoma-** No excuse absentee voting by mail. Absentee ballot must be returned to the county election board by mail. You may apply for absentee ballots for one, several, or all election in which you are eligible to vote during the calendar year in which the application is submitted.

**Tennessee-** Absentee vote by mail application-excuse required. No-excuse in-person early voting is available beginning 20 days before the election and ends 5 days before the election. Tennessee has a permanent absentee voting register.

### Summary

- 30% of the voters or 39.7 million people voted early in the 2008 Presidential Election compared to 20% in 2004.
- In 10 states, more than half of all ballots cast were cast early (Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas and Washington). \*\*\*
- Ohio and Florida and other states credit early voting with smoother election days \*\*\*
- The absentee/Early vote count in Missouri and surrounding states in 2008:
  - Missouri had 323,776 vote absentee (11.1%)
  - Kentucky had 6.3% vote absentee;
  - Kansas had 428,772 votes in advance (34.7%).
  - Arkansas had 37.1% vote early with 18.1% being via mail.
  - Iowa had 36% vote early or 557,333.
  - Nebraska had 21.8% vote early or 176,946.
  - Oklahoma had 13% of their voters vote early for president.
  - Tennessee had 1,550,939 ballots cast early (59.2%) \*\*\*\*\*

Do the voters and election officials of Missouri want to see a reform of Missouri excuse-required absentee voting to a method of early voting, no-excuse in-person or via mail absentee voting, or both or neither? The LWV of MO is asking these questions. The committee will be providing a brief preview at the Unit meetings in January: consensus study in February, 2010.

Resources:

\*Early Voting Information Center at Reed College **States Absentee and Early Voting Laws**  
<http://earlyvoting.net/states/abslaws.php>

**Secretary of State Web** page for each State mentioned and the KC Election Board

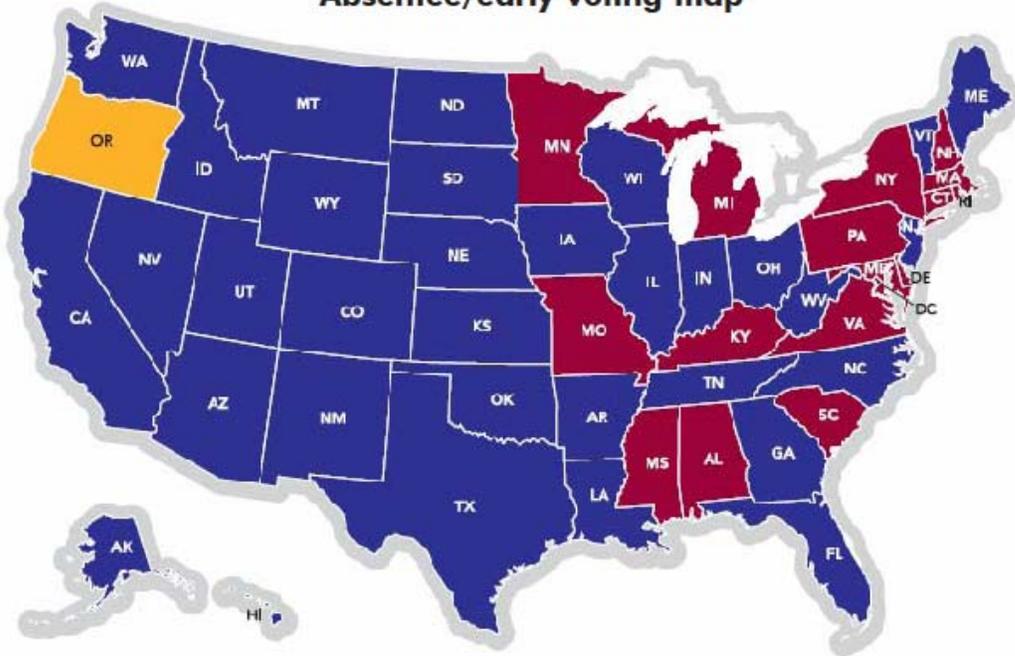
**\*\*Election Preview 2008: What If we had an Election and Everyone Came?\*** The section on State Snapshots, Pew Center on the States  
[http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Election\\_reform/Election%20Preview%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Election_reform/Election%20Preview%20FINAL.pdf)

**\*\*\*America Goes to the polls—A report on voter turnout in 2008 Election by George Pillsbury**  
<http://www.nonprofitvote.org/voteturnout2008>

**\*\*\*\*\*“(Nearly) Final 2008 Early Voting Statistics”**, by Dr. Michael McDonald  
[http://elections.gmu.edu/Early\\_Voting\\_2008\\_Final.html](http://elections.gmu.edu/Early_Voting_2008_Final.html)

*Marty Ott, Chair*

**Absentee/early voting map**



- 33 states allow no-excuse absentee voting by mail and/or no-excuse in-person early voting.
- 16 states and the District of Columbia require an excuse for absentee voting.
- 1 state is all vote-by-mail.

Notes:  
Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia allow for no-excuse in-person early voting while requiring an excuse to cast an absentee ballot by mail.  
In 37 of 39 counties in Washington state all ballots are cast by mail.

Source: electionline.org analysis of state law, state election web sites.

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## **Program Planning and Bylaw Recommendations for discussion at the January 2010 Unit Meetings**

Every two years several months prior to the League’s national convention all local Leagues discuss and make recommendations for the national issues they want to see the League study. This year, after the LWWUS board compiles all the suggestions submitted by the local Leagues, it will make its recommendations. Based on the preliminary information that the national League has sent, it probably will choose one issue, either a new study, a concurrence or an update, although it could recommend more.

Because the LWWUS is asking local Leagues to limit it recommendations for only one new study, it is important to get a feel for what is happening in other Leagues across the country. To that end, there is a convention list-serve. All members can access it through the League web page, LWW.org To date the new studies suggested by other Leagues include: some aspect of the role of the federal government in education, studying and taking action on civic literacy, a study on the establishment of a cabinet level Department of Peace, study of publicly financed campaigns. **I hope that League members will put on their thinking caps before the January meetings and think creatively about national issues that could benefit from a League study and consensus.**

## BYLAW RECOMMENDATION

National convention time gives Leagues an opportunity to see if there are any changes they want to make to the national bylaws. Unless members have a particular concern, they normally do not examine the bylaws. However, this year, one of our League members made a suggestion for a national bylaw change which our board agreed to support. We will bring this to our units for further input. If you are interested in reading the LWVUS bylaws you may go its web site.

Article III, sec 2, of the national bylaws addresses Types of Members

# 3 states “those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members excused from the payment of dues.” Our League will recommend that the word *honorary* be deleted. The word honorary is usually conferred on a person who did not actually complete the prerequisites that were required for the honor he or she was receiving. League members who have spent 50 or more years in the League have earned whatever recognition he or she receives. I, as a 52 year member of the League, think summing up my contribution as honorary is less than complimentary. You guessed it. I was the person that introduced this bylaw change.

In addition to planning for convention 2010, the Early Voting committee will give you a brief preview to whet your appetite for the February units.

### Unit Meetings

#### UNIVERSITY CITY/CLAYTON

Tuesday, January 12  
9:15 a.m. coffee  
9:30 a.m. meeting

#### HOME OF ELISE JOERGER

7136 Kingsbury  
314.725.4829  
Leader: Carol Portman  
314.726.3269

**North on Big Bend, 1<sup>st</sup> stoplight past Forest Park Parkway, turn left, 2<sup>nd</sup> block on left.**

#### WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD

Wednesday, January 13  
9:30 a.m. meeting

#### HOME OF MARY LONG

10 Zinzer Ct.  
314.849.7045  
Leader: Mary Long

Grant Rd. to Gravois, left on Gravois, Left again at 2<sup>nd</sup> entrance. Stop sign is Zinzer Ct. Right on Zinzer Ct. to 3<sup>rd</sup> house on right. (If you hit Laclede Station, you have gone too far.)

#### WEBSTER GROVES/KIRKWOOD

Thursday, January 14  
7:00 p.m.

#### LEAGUE OFFICE

8706 Manchester Road, Suite 104  
314.961.6869  
Leader: Esther Clark 314.416.0366

#### CHESTERFIELD/CREVE COEUR

Thursday, January 14  
9:30 a.m. meeting  
Noon salad lunch

#### HOME OF SYDELL SHAYER

709 Champeix Lane  
314.434.5116  
Leader: Mary Brown  
636.532.0833

**From 270 take Ladue Road west 1.4 miles to Chasselle, Right on Chasselle, at 2<sup>nd</sup> circle, turn right on Champeix, 5<sup>th</sup> house on the right. White house with red sculpture**

**ST. LOUIS CITY UNIT**  
Saturday , January 9  
10:30 a.m.

**TRINITY CHURCH**  
Euclid and Washington  
Contact: Betty Ann Gilbert 314.773.8719  
or Kathleen Farrell 314.773.2876

**Corner of Euclid and Washington, one block east of Kingshighway, one block south of Delmar  
For ride or more information contact Betty Ann or Kathleen**

### **2010 Discussion Topics for Units**

January - Program Planning for LWVUS + Intro. Early Voting Consensus  
February - Early Voting Consensus  
March - International Relations



### **VOLUNTEER CORNER**

Finishing out the year with a big bang we had 3 large mailings plus the usual League activities. Leaguers assisting in the office this month were: Barbara Behiter, Esther Clark, Becky Clausen, Sue Dellbringge, Janet Fales, Kathleen Farrell, Betty Ann Gilbert, Mickey Hall, Elise Joerger, Julian Long, Linda McDaniel, Jeanne Morrel-Franklin, Marty Ott, & Enid Tennebaum,

Another year is gone and the League keeps on going, and going, and going. Thanks to its many volunteers. Looking forward to working with everyone in 2010. Happy New Year, all!

*Julie Behrens, Staff*

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REFLECTIONS**

How do you stay current? In our culture technology can be outdated before it hits the shelves. As a quasi-Luddite, I am usually not first in line for the latest gadget. I do however try to stay current on news. Usually this comes by way of the newspaper or public radio. I also enjoy news magazines which go deeper and survey things more broadly than I might seek out on my own. When given the opportunity, I love to get news through another filter such as Aljazeera or the BBC. Despite my inclinations, I now follow a few on-line sources for political news and happenings.

League members are remarkably well informed and provide a great deal of context for current policy debates along with facts and figures. These come in handy for answering citizen questions and responding to concerns as I direct folks to their elected officials. Receiving multiple calls voicing similar concerns can alert me to grassroots movements. Whether you get your news from a neighbor or read every blog post and tweet, I wish you a new year filled with fascinating and thought provoking information. Please keep sharing it with me and the League.

*Anna Mennerick*



## League of Women Voters Information Service Presents

### *Why Torture is Wrong and the People Who Love Them*

A play by Christopher Durang *Winner of the Lila Wallace Readers Digest Writers Award, the Sidney Kingsley Playwright Award and nominated for the Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize.*

*Why Torture is Wrong and the People Who Love Them* is by playwright Christopher Durang. Political humor is turned upside down with this hilarious and provocative satire about America's "War on Terror." *Why Torture is Wrong, and the People Who Love Them* tells the story of a young woman suddenly in crisis: Is her new husband, whom she married when drunk, a terrorist? Or just crazy? Or both? Is her father's hobby of butterfly collecting really a cover for his involvement in a shadow government? Don't feel guilty about laughing hard at this new black comedy for an era of yellow, orange and red alerts.

**Saturday February 13**

1:30-2:30 - Buffet Reception

3:00-5:30 - Performance

*Doors open at 2:30*

**Kranzberg Arts Center**

**Located in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri Building**

**501 N. Grand Ave., St. Louis, MO**

**Presented by:**



\$55 per person

*Sponsorships Available\**

*\$500 - 6 tickets, reserved seating*

*\$300 - 4 tickets reserved seating*

*\$150 - 2 tickets, reserved seating*

*\*sponsors will be acknowledged in the program*



### A BENEFIT PERFORMANCE TO SUPPORT LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS INFORMATION SERVICE

*Proceeds support voter education, information and service in the Greater St. Louis Community.*

For Tickets call 314.961.6869

League of Women Voters Information Service is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, nonpartisan community service organization that provides information and services that enables an active, informed, electorate. Its work is made possible in part through donations from the community and the gifts of time and funds from the members of the League of Women Voters. HotCity Theatre is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit professional theatre company produces contemporary, issue-oriented works of theatre that challenge and inspire St. Louis area audiences. HotCity also develops new theatrical works, encourages diversity, and through educational outreach nurtures a life-long passion for theatre. It is funded, in part, by the Fox Associates Foundation, Regional Arts Commission, and Missouri Arts Council.

**Annual Theater Party 2010 in Partnership with HotCity Theatre**  
**Hosted by the League of Women Voters Information Service**

Reception from 1:30pm – 2:30pm and the Show at 3:00 p.m., February 13, 2009 at the  
Kranzberg Arts Center, 501 N. Grand Ave., St. Louis, MO

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I will be a sponsor at the \$\_\_\_\_\_ level.

I am unable to sponsor, but would like to make a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets needed\_\_\_\_\_ Seating is limited. Please indicate only the seats you will use.

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$3000-Diamond**      *10 tickets*

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$1500-Platinum**      *8 tickets*

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$500 - Gold**      *6 tickets*

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$300 - Silver**      *4 tickets*

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$150 - Bronze**      *2 tickets*

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$55**      *1 ticket*

I would like my sponsor contribution to remain anonymous.

Make checks payable to the LWV Information Service.

Sponsorships are tax deductible to the extent allowable by the law. Receipts will be provided with your tickets.

**Return to:** League of Women Voters Information Service, 8706 Manchester Rd., Suite 104, St. Louis, MO 63144.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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IN LEAGUE REPORTER

