



IN LEAGUE REPORTER

MAY 2012

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST LOUIS

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BOARD BACKS PROPOSITION Y

SPECIAL ELECTION – TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2012
THE METROPOLITAN ST. LOUIS SEWER DISTRICT

PROPOSITION Y

To comply with federal and state clean water requirements, shall The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD) issue its sewer revenue bonds in the amount of Nine Hundred Forty Five Million Dollars (\$945,000,000) for the purpose of designing, constructing, improving, renovating, repairing, replacing and equipping new and existing MSD sewer and drainage facilities and systems, including sewage treatment and disposal plants, sanitary sewers, and acquisition of easements and real property related thereto, the cost of operation and maintenance of said facilities and systems and the principal of and interest on said revenue bonds to be payable solely from the revenues derived by MSD from the operation of its wastewater sewer system, including all future extensions and improvements thereto?

Proposition Y would authorize revenue bonds to continue the work of MSD to meet regulatory requirements and to replace and repair outdated components of the wastewater collection and treatment system. Of particular concern are sewer overflows which were discussed at length in the February *In League Reporter*. The bonds would be used solely for the capital program and would not be used for operational purposes. The bond issue is part of a long term, multi-billion dollar program to eliminate sewer overflows, prevent backups into basements and improve the quality of water in our rivers and streams. Projects include the construction of sewers, deep tunnels for storage, surface storage tanks, high rate treatment facilities, pump stations, green infrastructure, and other improvements. If the bond issue does not pass, the work would be financed on a pay as you go basis. The result would be significantly higher rates. According to MSD, the rate for the average single family rate payer starting July 1, 1012 with the bond issue would be \$31.34 and without the bond issue would be \$64.15.

The Board of the League of Women Voters has voted to support Proposition Y and Propositions 1 through 8.
See complete Propositions on Pages 3-4

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Sat.	April 28th	11:00 am	Annual Meeting	Orlando's on Watson
Sat.	May 5th	9:00-3:00pm	State Council	St Charles Comm.College
Tues.	May 8th	7:00 pm	Environmental Quality Comm.	League Office
Fri.	May 11th	10:00 am	International Relations Comm	SLCL Headquarters
Wed.	May 16th	6:00 pm	LWVSTL Board Meeting	League Office
Thurs.	May 17th	10:30 am	Health Care Comm.	Cape Albeon
Mon.	May 28th		OFFICE CLOSED—MEMORIAL DAY	

PLANNING AHEAD

Sat.	Aug. 25th	10am-2pm	Equality Day Brunch	Crowne Plaza Hotel
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2011-2012 LWVSTL BOARD of DIRECTORS

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1st V.P. Pat Jones
2nd V.P. Nancy Miller
3rd V.P. Vacant
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS MAY 2012

What a year it has been! We didn't quite realize how much we had done this year until the Annual Meeting reports started coming in. Your hard work and support made it possible to register voters; run candidate forums; prepare Voters Guide material; advocate for Clean Air Act enforcement, abolition of the death penalty, rejection of the Voter Photo I.D. bill through Governor Nixon's veto; and keep our eyes on pending tax and education funding legislation. We taped our first five minute television segment on the importance of voting, which will be aired on STL TV on Charter 992 and 99 AT&T soon.

Summer with the League has usually been our time to relax a bit and regroup. Not this summer! Our increased visibility and work in the community has resulted in more requests for what we do best – provide voters with balanced non partisan information about candidates, issues, and good government. We have candidate forums to facilitate and a Voters Guide to produce for the August election. We have partnered with Focus St. Louis, The Brown School of Social Work at Washington University, and the St. Louis County Library to provide three issue forums on state tax initiatives and two on pending the Voter Photo I.D. law in August and September. In addition, we will co-sponsor a forum on Voter Photo I.D. issues with the Missouri Association for Social Welfare. Carol Portman's group of trained registrars will also have their work cut out for them.

Your board will be putting together an exciting program for next year and working to raise the funds to support our work. Linda McDaniel, Kathleen Farrell, Marty Ott and Sydell Shayer will represent St. Louis at the LWVUS convention in Washington D.C. in June. Here's how you can help. Tuck in some time between trips and summer activities to join your friends working on these projects. Many good heads and willing hands working together is what the League is all about.

Linda C. McDaniel & Kathleen Farrell, Co-Presidents



Democratic Candidates for St. Louis City Treasurer at April 12th Forum. Over 200 came to hear candidates Fred Wessel, Brian Wahby, Tishaura Jones and Jeffrey Boyd. Radio station WGNU broadcast the entire Forum and follow up interviews with the candidates.



PROPOSITION Y

The League support is based on our local, state and national clean water positions.

LWV St. Louis: Water Quality: Support of improved water quality with emphasis on the Metropolitan Sewer District and improved communications between MSD and the citizens.

LWVMO: Support of a comprehensive water policy for Missouri...

LWVUS Supports:

- water resource programs and policies that reflect interrelationships of water quality, water quantity, ground water and surface water and that address the potential depletion or pollution of water supplies;
- measures to reduce water pollution from direct point-source discharges and from indirect nonpoint sources;
- policies to achieve water quality essential for maintaining species, populations and diversity including measures to protect lakes, estuaries, wetlands and in-stream flows;
- stringent controls to protect the quality of current and potential drinking-water supplies, including protection of watershed for surface supplies and of recharge areas for groundwater.

In addition to the bond issue, MSD is proposing eight amendments to the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District Plan (Charter). The Plan was adopted at an election in 1954 when the District was created and amended at the November, 2000 election. One of the amendments in 2000 was a provision for a Plan Amendment Commission to be appointed every ten years beginning in 2010 to recommend any amendments to the Plan it deems appropriate to the Board of Trustees. The Commission received input from MSD staff and from a number of stakeholders. The following amendments are the result of that process.

PROPOSITION 1

Shall Article 2 of the Plan (Charter) of The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District be amended to provide that the portion of the District’s boundaries that are located within St. Louis County shall be as described in records kept in the office of the Secretary-Treasurer of the District and no longer required to be contained in the text of the Plan?

The boundaries of the District are presently listed in detail in the Charter. This amendment takes the boundary description out of the Charter and provides that the boundaries would be listed in records maintained in the office of the Secretary-Treasurer. The change allows the records to be updated whenever a change occurs for greater efficiency and accuracy. This applies only to the record keeping.

PROPOSITION 2

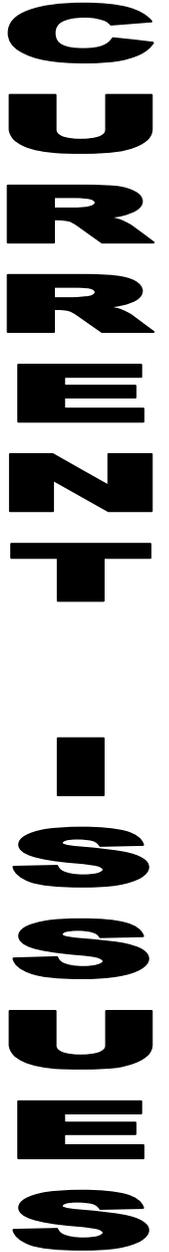
Shall Articles 3 and 9 of the Plan (Charter) of The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District be amended to (a) establish procedural requirements relating to the formation of subdistricts within the District and the design, construction and funding of improvements in such subdistricts, and (b) establish the method for levying special benefit assessments, all subject to a vote of the property owners in the affected subdistricts?

This amendment streamlines the procedure for the formation of subdistricts and funding improvements within the subdistricts. The provisions would shorten the time required to form districts, conserve costs and puts the process in compliance with the Hancock Amendment.

PROPOSITION 3

Shall Article 3 of the Plan (Charter) of The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District relating to powers of the District be amended to (a) permit the District to establish environmentally sustainable standards and practices, and (b) clarify the existing authority of the District to enter into contracts pertaining to stormwater facilities?

This amendment would add specific language to the powers of the District listed in the Charter with reference to environmentally sustainable standards and practices to address water quality and drainage issues and for stormwater management.



PROPOSITION Y con't

PROPOSITION 4

Shall Articles 5, 7 and 10 of the Plan (Charter) of The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District be amended to provide that notice of the expiration of a Directors term, notice of tax levy hearings, notice of proposed rate changes, and notice of elections under the Plan (Charter) shall be given by mail, publication or electronic media, or such other form of communication as may be permitted by Missouri law?

At present, the Charter provides for notices to be published in print form. This amendment would also allow the District to post required notices and communications by mail, on the web and through other electronic media as permitted by Missouri law.

PROPOSITION 5

Shall Articles 7 and 9 of the Plan (Charter) of The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District relating to budget and finance be amended to (a) require the Districts budget to include a list of capital projects, (b) require a public hearing at least 21 days prior to adoption of the budget, and (c) provide that proceedings to make certain improvements shall be initiated by approval of a list of capital projects and a general appropriation ordinance rather than by resolution?

This amendment would streamline the budget process by including the list of proposed capital projects in the District's budget and mandating a public hearing.

PROPOSITION 6

Shall Article 9 of the Plan (Charter) of The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District be amended to permit the District to use design-build and other alternative delivery methods to make improvements, as permitted by Missouri law?

This amendment would give the District the flexibility to use design-build and other methods and technology to make improvements. Delivery methods would be limited to those permitted by Missouri law.

PROPOSITION 7

Shall Article 11 of the Plan (Charter) of The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District be amended to provide that a District Plan Amendment Commission shall be appointed on or before July 1, 2019 and every ten years thereafter?

This amendment sets a date of July 1 for the appointment of the District Plan Amendment Commission. At present, the Charter sets a date of on or before January 20, 2010 and every ten years thereafter. A report is due to the Board of Trustees by June 1 following the date of appointment. The amended date would give the Commission more time to gather information and make recommendations.

PROPOSITION 8

Shall the Plan (Charter) of The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District be amended to (a) make various typographical, grammatical and stylistic revisions to the text thereof, (b) correct outdated statutory citations and references, (c) change gender specific language to gender neutral language, and (d) eliminate the requirement that records of the Board of Trustees maintained by the Secretary-Treasurer be kept in bound or book form?

The first three provisions of this amendment are self-explanatory. Part (d) refers to permitting records to be kept in electronic or other formats rather than limited to bound or book form.

A simple majority is needed for passage of each of these propositions.

Further information is available on the Metropolitan St. Louis District website: www.stlmsd.com

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MISSOURI LEGISLATION ON EDUCATION con't

The League believes school sponsors should have additional documented oversight responsibilities and opposes expansion of charter schools statewide.

Tuition Tax Credit

HB 1718 (Scharnhorst), referred to as Bryce's Law, was approved by the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee on March 21. This bill would create an 80% tax credit for donations to scholarship granting organizations that would in turn provide scholarships/payments for students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome, Angelman syndrome, or cerebral palsy to attend non-public schools, or out-of-district public schools or home schools. While we acknowledge the growing demand to serve special needs students, it is a tuition tax credit plan, opposed by the League, to divert public funds to non-public schools. On Thursday, April 12, the bill was voted out of committee and placed on the House Bills for Perfection Calendar. It was briefly debated on the House floor, but was laid over without a vote and could be taken up at any time for floor debate.

LWVUS FINAL POSITION ON EDUCATION

The LWVUS Board approved a new Education position at the March 2012 (March 25, 2012) Board meeting. The League of Women Voters- St. Louis was one of the 377 Leagues across the country who participated in the Education Study, "The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education". The new position is based on those responses. Analysis of the new position very closely reflected our Leagues consensus and comments submitted in our final report to the LWVUS Board.

FEDERAL ROLE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION POSITION

The LWVUS Board approved a new Education position at the March 2012 (March 25, 2012) Board meeting. The position is based on responses received from the 377 Leagues across the country who participated in the Education Study. Thanks to the many local and state Leagues and ILOs who held meetings, involved their communities and worked to reach consensus on this critical issue of importance to all Americans. Committee Chairs Peg Hill (TX) and Joanne Leavitt (CA) and their committee: Pat Aaron (IL), Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins (CO), Patricia Libutti (NJ), Sanford Ostroy (MA), Jean Pierce (IL) and Janelle Rivers (SC) are to be commended for their excellent work and leadership.

The League of Women Voters believes that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12. A quality public education is essential for a strong, viable, and sustainable democratic society and is a civil right.

The League believes that the role of the federal government should include the following:

- Provide leadership and vision to promote a quality education for all children;
- Provide broad common standards developed by educational experts upon which states and local education agencies can build;
- Provide a suggested curricular structure or framework as a guide to state and local education agencies to develop their own curricula;
- Provide a national assessment that clearly informs teachers, parents and students about how well individual students have mastered criteria established at the national level;
- Provide a national assessment that informs districts how well their populations compare to other populations similar to theirs; and
- Provide a combination of competitive grants and non-competitive funding to states and local school districts to achieve equity among states and populations.

WOMEN-ON-BOARD

LWVUS EDUCATION POSITION con't

The League of Women Voters believes that an equitable, quality public education is critical for students. While the League recognizes that there are instances where the federal government's involvement is the only way to achieve universal change (desegregation, special needs population, gender equity), we also recognize that primary responsibility for public education resides with the states. In accordance with the League of Women Voters' position on Equal Rights, we continue to support equity in public education for all through:

- Broad guidelines for accountability, leaving implementation to the state and local education agencies;
- Adequate funding sources that support the broad goals of national standards; and
- Mechanisms for local and state funding with adequate federal support for mandates that require less burdensome, compliance-based reporting and regulations.

The League of Women Voters believes a basic role of the federal government in funding education should be to achieve equity among states and populations on the basis of identified needs. This should be done with full understanding that equity does not mean equal, given that some populations are more expensive to educate than others and some localities have specific needs.

The League believes that the federal government should be primarily responsible for funding any programs mandated by the federal government on local education agencies. Although the League recognizes equity in education depends on meeting basic human needs of children and of their families, the costs associated with providing equitable access to safe neighborhoods and secure housing do not belong in the education budget. Major programs of federal funding for public education (i.e., Elementary and Secondary Education Act) should be targeted toward children living in poverty and/or children with special needs. The federal government has the responsibility to monitor and support access to the following:

- High quality teaching and learning, supported by quality current learning materials and well maintained educational facilities; and
- Access to health care needs (i.e., hearing, vision, dental, immunization, school-based health clinics at the secondary level, etc.) and nutritionally adequate food (i.e., school-based meals under "free and reduced meal programs").

The League of Women Voters believes that the first five years of a child's life are crucial in building the foundation for educational attainment and greatly impact success or failure in later life. Additionally, the League believes quality, developmentally appropriate and voluntary early learning experiences should be available to all children, with federally funded opportunities going first to children of poverty and/or with special needs. The League believes that the federal government should support the following:

- Early childhood education programs that include funding for parent education and involve child development, health, nutrition and access to other supportive services such as mental health care for all children and their families;
- Research that documents quality early childhood education programs; and
- Research that demonstrates the importance of linking state and local community partnerships with effective early childhood education programs and services.

Marty Ott, Education Study Committee Chair, Missouri Education Chair

WOMEN-ORGANIZATION

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The International Relations Committee has chosen its topic for study during the upcoming year: UN WOMEN. This is a relatively new entity within the United Nations (July 2010) which focuses on the various issues facing women around the world. You can find details at unwomen.org. We plan to look at the various agencies mentioned at that web site plus CEDAW, those Millennium Development Goals which apply to women, etc. We will probably make unit presentations in February or March of 2013. The IR will not meet during the summer months. We could meet during the summer sometime for lunch at a foreign food restaurant! Our first regular meeting in the fall will be Sept 14 - 10 a.m. - STL Co Lib HQ.



Our next meeting is Friday, May 11th, at 10:00am, St Louis County Library Headquarters.

JOIN US! We'll be learning about Leymah Gbowee of Liberia who was honored with a Nobel Peace Prize in 2011.

Judith Smart, Chair

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

Want to take some Action? Come to the EQ Meeting help support the MSD Proposition Y on May 8, 2012 at 7 pm at the LWVSTL Office.

(mcroyle@wustl.edu or 314.395.7876) with suggestions or questions.

Mickey Croyle, Chair



HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

The Health Care Committee will meet at Cape Albeon on Thursday, May 17th, at 10:30 am in the private dining room. We will be discussing issues related to mental health. Contact Katharine Kilpatric at 636.861.7148 or email kkilpatric@yahoo.com if you have any questions relating to directions to the meeting place or if you plan to attend. Cape Albeon from Highway 270 and Dougherty Ferry: go west on Dougherty Ferry to Lake Bend Drive, (after you cross Big Bend) left on Lake Bend Drive and you are there.



Katharine Kilpatric, Chair

VOTER REGISTRATION TRAINING



LWV Information Service will be swamped with requests to register voters at a number of functions. We could use some more members. There are two members right now waiting to be trained. Who would like to join them? Let Carol Portman know... carportman@sbcglobal.net

WOMEN-IMPACTING DEVELOPMENT

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VOLUNTEER CORNER

The office was extremely busy with phone calls from the public regarding the municipal elections and distributing the voter guides; Theatre Party and other fundraising activities; and preparing materials for the St. Louis Annual Meeting and the LWV Missouri State Council. If you wish to answer the phones or help with mailings, etc. please contact our volunteer coordinator, Barbara Harris at 314.968.3609 (phone) or IMBJH@charter.net (email). Thanks to Brenda Banjak, Doris Buzzell, Esther Clark, Jim Clark, Becky Clausen, Marj Courtney, Clyde Creel, Sue Dellbringge, Kathleen Farrell, Agnes Garino, Betty Ann Gilbert, Mickey Hall, Barbara Harris, Ilene Horenstein, Pat Jones, Katharine Kilpatric, Linda McDaniel, Nancy Miller, Cindy Mitchell, Marty Ott, Mary Beth Reynolds, Louise Reeves, and Judith Smart who helped since our last newsletter. If we neglected to mention anyone, please let us know and we will acknowledge you in the next newsletter.



Julie Behrens

From the Executive Director's Desk - Anna Mennerick

Action Alerts, Candidate Forums, Legislation, Voter Registration, Ballot Initiatives, Television Programs, Voters Guides, Redistricting, Local, State and National League Events. . . . If you aren't excited about the League, you haven't been paying close enough attention. Hold on to your bats, 2012 is in full swing.



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It's as easy as 1 2 3

1. Pick up a *Schnucks* eScrip card at the customer service counter.
2. Activate the card by calling 800-931-6258. Say your charity is the LWVIS, Group # 500015391 or go to www.escrip.com/schnucks.jsp and follow instructions.
3. Present your card to the cashier for scanning every time you shop at *Schnucks*.
The League benefits and it costs you nothing.

****Many League members are participating in this no cost fundraiser. We hope you will add your name to this list. We receive a check monthly and it requires no soliciting. There is no easier way for you to help the League budget. Join today!

