



LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Published semi-monthly during the Missouri Legislative Session by the
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI

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LEGISLATURE CONVENES

Welcome to the first issue of the League of Women Voters Legislative Bulletin for the 2010 Legislative Session. You are receiving this complimentary copy because you are a previous subscriber. If you wish to get the Bulletin by postal mail, see the form at the end. Later in the session we plan to also utilize a program (CapWiz), which will allow for quick and easy responses from members to action alerts. Lobbying your legislator can be as simple as a few “mouse clicks” with this great program doing most of the work, yet allowing for personalization.

As this is the second year of this term of the legislature with a returning governor, much activity has already taken place. Legislators began pre-filing legislation December 1, many committees have met, budget hearings have been ongoing, and informative seminars for legislators and the public have been held. The consensus revenue estimate has been agreed to by the House, Senate, and Governor which allows work to begin quickly to bring the 2010 budget in line with state income and begin planning for the 2011 budget which begins July 1, 2010. The Governor’s State of the State Address was January 20, kicking things into high gear. With huge numbers of legislators being term-limited, many of whom are competing against each other for new jobs, predicted funding running approximately \$1 billion behind, and an election year—well, things should never be dull.

This issue will introduce you to the session itself (see calendar below), the legislative priorities of LWVMO, and the Advocacy Committee members who will be reporting to you on the progress of bills and other activities. These volunteers (some board members, some not) study bills and report to you the action Leaguers need to take. We hope this is not a “one-way conversation,” that you will inform yourself and help us urge passage of legislation that will best serve all Missourians. League’s priorities were chosen based on member interest and timeliness. League’s state and national positions guide us in selecting bills/issues to support or oppose throughout each legislative session.

League needs a vigorous grassroots lobbying effort this session. Our members must take the initiative to contact legislators about the key issues of interest to League. Here's what YOU can do to support our agenda:

- Subscribe to the Legislative Bulletin by e-mail or snail mail and read it carefully
- Take the initiative to contact local legislators now to discuss our key issues
- Attend Legislative Day in the Capitol on March 23
- Visit the new LWVMO website
- As priority issues move forward this session you will receive Action Alerts with links to the new CapWiz program, which makes sending e-mail on an issue quick and easy.
- At the end of each week, committee schedules for the next week (along with the bills to be discussed) are on the Missouri House of Representatives and Senate website. If you have comments you can e-mail or call your representative or the chair of the committee (or all committee members) to have input before the issue gets to the floor. This is really the best way to influence legislation. You can even listen in to floor debate from the same websites, live, on your computer.

2010 SCHEDULE

Jan.	6	95 th General Assembly, 2nd Regular Session Convenes
	18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – NO SESSION
	20	Joint Session – State of the State Address, 7:00 p.m., in House Chamber
Feb.	3	State of the Judiciary, 10:30 a.m. in House Chamber
	23	Filing opens for House, Senate, Auditor, and U. S. Congress (LWVMO at Secretary of State's office in Kirkpatrick Building)
Mar.	1	Last Day to File Senate Bills
	4	Spring break begins upon adjournment
	15	Session Reconvenes
	23	LWVMO Legislative Day
Apr.	5	Easter Break
	15	Last Day to Report House Consent Bills from Committees
May	7	Appropriation Bills must be Truly Agreed and Finally Passed – 6 p.m.
	14	Session ends – 6 p.m.
	30	Adjournment per Constitution (Veto Session in September)

LEAGUERS INTRODUCE THEMSELVES

In January, welcome letters were distributed to all 163 Representatives (actually there are currently only 158 with 4 vacancies) and 34 Senators along with LWV priority cards. A number of interviews with local representatives and senators have been conducted by Leaguers around the state and forwarded to the state office. If you haven't interviewed your legislators, it's not too late. Call them to arrange a 30-minute visit at a local coffee shop on a Friday, Saturday, or Monday morning, and make that important face-to-face contact. It makes you more comfortable calling them later in the session and it lets the legislator know what constituents expect of them and where they can go for information or help in promoting an issue.

LWVMO LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2010

League priority, making democracy work:

- Electoral process that is fair, accurate, efficient, accessible, accountable and uniform including:
 - campaign finance reform
 - ethics reform
 - progress toward elimination of term limits
 - opposition to a required voter photo ID
 - changes to the voting process that encourage citizen participation
 - appropriate use of initiative petition
 - compact and contiguous redistricting
- Tax policy promoting financial stability and adequate funding for state services

League supports and continues to monitor:

- Equal access to quality public education for all Missouri children
- Energy initiatives to reduce emissions that contribute to climate change
- Access to quality, affordable healthcare, including mental health, and preventive public health measures
- Maintaining the non-partisan court plan for selecting judges
- Death penalty moratorium
- Child safety and well-being

LEGISLATIVE DAY IN JEFFERSON CITY – COMING MARCH 23

Save Tuesday, March 23 on your calendar for LWVMO Legislative Day in the Missouri Capitol. It promises to be stimulating and fun, well worth your time and effort. The day will start at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast provided in the Capitol basement, HR 2. It will include visits by several key legislators regarding issues of particular concern to League, updates on legislation progressing, visiting the House and Senate chambers, and time to meet with individual legislators to promote League's positions. You will receive packets of information with information about priority bills, lobbying tips, lists of legislators, and maps of the Capitol—everything you need for a successful day. Networking with other League members around the state while sharing a box lunch in the same location (we have it scheduled all day) will be followed by a special activity TBA. The only cost is for food, \$15 for breakfast and lunch, which can be paid on the 31st. Please call in the number of persons attending by 3 p.m. March 18 to plan appropriate amounts of food (314-961-6869 or 660-263-5725).

February 23 is the first day of filing for the August primary and November general elections. Traditionally, League members have gathered at the Secretary of State's office with refreshments, information, and welcoming smiles for those citizens stepping up to offer their service in governing our state. If you are interested in helping, contact Lael Von Holt (Columbia), who is coordinating this event.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTENTS OF THIS REPORT . . .

LWVMO Legislative Director, Nancy Copenhaver (Moberly) will be editing the Legislative Bulletin as well as following the priorities of League in regard to education, sharing reports from advocacy groups in that area. Feel free to contact her at CopenhaverN@lwvmissouri.org, including LWV in the subject line of the e-mail. Jo Sapp (Columbia) (SappJ@lwvmissouri.org), and Mary Merritt (Sedalia) (MerrittM@lwvmissouri.org) both past presidents, join Nancy on a team monitoring a LWVUS special Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Project (PAVP) and communicating with you about those priorities. Linda McDaniel (St. Louis) will also be closely watching all issues dealing with elections (McDanielL@lwvmissouri.org).

Win Colwill (Columbia) will be monitoring energy and global warming issues (ColwillW@lwvmissouri.org), probably a hot topic again this year with state reactions to national action. Sydell Shayer (St. Louis) is our go-to person on death penalty issues (ShayerS@lwvmissouri.org) and often adds some historical perspectives. Lael Von Holt (Columbia) will be following mental health/health issues and reporting on current activities in that area (VonHoltL@lwvmissouri.org) along with new LWVMO Board Member Linda Vogel (Kansas City) (VogelL@lwvmissouri.org). Sue Brockett (Southeast Missouri) (BrockettS@lwvmissouri.org) has taken on the job of monitoring environment and resource conservation issues.

Cande Iveson (Columbia) who has lobbied on children's issues for a number of years (IvesonC@lwvmissouri.org) will keep us informed in that area as well as spearheading Cap Wiz activity. Cande, Elaine Blodgett (Columbia) (BlodgettE@lwvmissouri.org), Jo Sapp (Columbia) and Nancy Copenhaver will all be monitoring activity in taxes, which may get quite hectic this year, with Jo and Nancy also watching ballot issues. Linda Kaiser (Columbia) will keep us informed regarding proposals affecting the non-partisan court plan. And of course, none of this would be possible without our able executive director, Anna Mennerick (MennerickA@lwvmissouri.org) who holds down the fort at the office in St. Louis.

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