

Voter Services Report June 2023

Candidates for races in Shawnee County have until June 1 at noon to file their candidacy with the election office. For voters, races on the ballot will include school board positions and potentially city office positions if they reside inside one of the five incorporated cities in the county. For residents in the Sherwood Improvement District, their ballot will include races for electing Directors to the improvement district on the general election ballot.

Because these races are all local races, our community will likely need to dig a little more to find the information they need to cast an informed vote this fall. The voter services is preparing to help voters with their research.

For example, the lines for Topeka City Council districts have been redrawn. We've updated our website with the [Topeka City Council map](#) so voters can find their district. This summer, our local League will participate with other Leagues across Kansas to prepare the VOTE411.org website to help voters research candidates.

VOTE411.org/Kansas offers information on how voting is administered in Kansas.

Just as important as having information to cast an informed vote is having the motivation to vote at all. The voter services team has been working to better understand why local elections are so important and why voters should be interested in shaping leadership at the local level.

During the April voters services team meeting, members learned about the services Shawnee County residents can receive from the Shawnee County Extension Office. Those services include the youth development program called 4-H. Extension offices are reshaping how 4-H is offered nationwide, including in Shawnee County. Voter services team members learned about an opportunity to connect with 4-H participants through a civic engagement program. There are [many examples](#) of how youth are being mentored and using their voices to work on projects that are important to them. Check out [their website](#) to learn more about how the extension office helps all Shawnee County residents.

In addition to learning, the voter services team has been working with voters. We can be found downtown at community events, at the NOTO First Friday Art Walks and Washburn University's Orientations. A 7-minute video training for engaging with voters is now available on our YouTube channel so members can help answer voters' questions. If you would like to empower voters this year, [please view the training](#) and join us.