

Voter Services Report September 2023

Election season is officially underway! Join Voter Services to learn about opportunities to connect with voters.

LWVUS Council inspires state and national leaders

Every member of the Topeka Shawnee County LWV is a member of both the Kansas and the national LWV organization. Once a year, LWVUS (the national LWV) puts together a meeting for LWV leaders to grow and learn together. During odd-numbered years, that is called "Council." During even-numbered years, the meeting is called "Convention."

Here's a [recap of the LWVUS Council](#). Council had two basic discussions:

- 1) the moonshot goal of abolishing the electoral college and
- 2) the League's transformation.

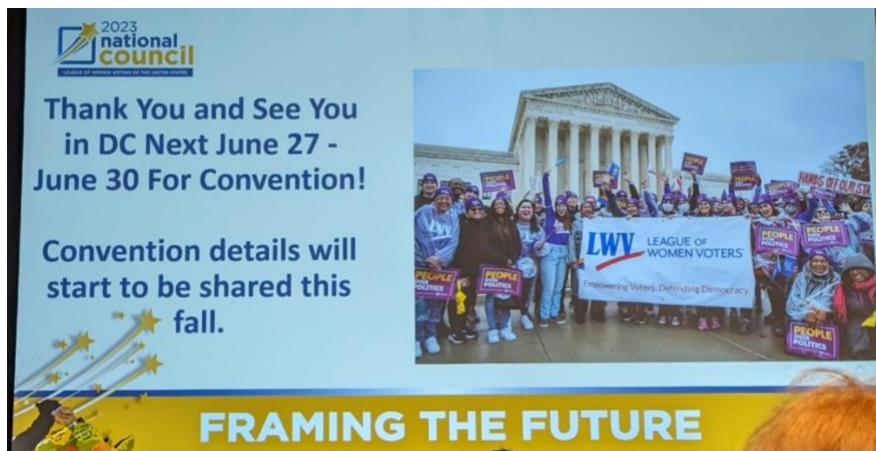
We have a lot of work ahead of us to accomplish these goals! Listed below are some things you can do during the next several months. These are important. Take your time looking at them. We have time to digest these important topics.

- 1) Read up on the [electoral college](#) and the [national popular vote compact](#). [This article](#) provides even more resources, so you will have the information you need to help advocate for one person, one vote with your family, friends and neighbors.
- 2) Learn about the current phase transformation plan called [Framing the Future](#) and how you can support it by understanding your [member rights and responsibilities](#).

Join the voter services team as we endeavor to study these together beginning in January 2024.



LWVUS commitments for the immediate 12 months



Mark your calendar now for 2024 LWUS Convention June 27-30 in Washington DC

Primary candidate selection decided with 10% of registered voters

Do you live in [District 6 of the Topeka City Council](#)? Did you vote in the primary election? If so, your vote counted and carried plenty of weight! Unofficial results from the election office show that 898 people voted which is just under 10% of registered voters. Those 898 people decided who moves onto the general election this fall where we'll likely have another small group of voters show up and decide who governs the city of Topeka.

Where can you learn about the candidates? If you want to have non-partisan information for voting, try these options:

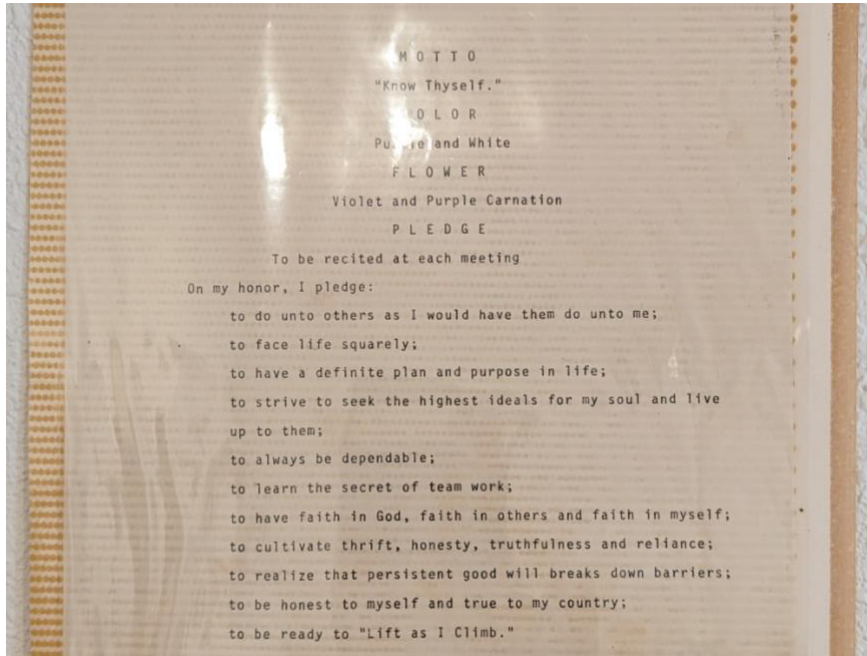
- VOTE411.org is the LWV non-partisan website that allows candidates to answer a few brief questions in their own words so that you can compare their answers side-by-side. Some candidates have filled out their answers; some haven't. You can contact candidates and encourage them to complete their answers on VOTE411 so that everyone can have access to the answers.
- **Contact them directly, one-by-one.** Also, [here's the candidates' contact information](#) courtesy of the Shawnee County Election office so you can contact these candidates directly via email, phone or at their home to have a face-to-face conversation.
- **Attend an LWV meet & greet.** Mark your calendars for October 17 and participate in our LWVTSC-sponsored meet & greet for candidates to come out and meet the voters all at once.

Field Trip to Heritage House Museum

On August 5, the voter services team visited the Topeka Council of Colored Women's Clubs Building, a National Historic Landmark, at 1149 SW Lincoln during the Heritage House Opening. Our tour was given by our very own LWVTSC member, Christine Smith, who has curated the museum for our community.

On the walls are important facts and memorabilia of the many Colored Women's Clubs in the Topeka community from the later part of the 20th century. Do you have memories of these clubs? Many of the

news clippings and pictures kept by the club members are available inside the museum and would benefit from more identification to preserve the social history. Private viewings of the museum for those purposes can be scheduled directly with Christine Smith.



Words of inspiration from Heritage House Museum

Voter services is heading back to the classroom this fall

The voter services team has refreshed its presentation for new voters. We'll give a brief history of voting in the U.S., followed by specific information about overcoming barriers to voting in Shawnee County. If you would like to observe on of the presentations, contact Susan Quinn or Robin Sweeney. Observing can be a great way to better understand how we help young voters self-register to vote.



Marc Galbraith presents voter education to Highland Park High School government class