



# VOTER

## Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Johnson County

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*Since 1920, the League of Women Voters has been a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

## **Saturday, November 5 Meeting** Atonement Lutheran Church - 9948 Metcalf

8:30 a.m. - Socializing  
9 - 11 a.m. - Program  
11 a.m. - noon - Board Meeting

### **"Public Education: Challenges and Promise"**

Public schools are funded primarily by taxes, especially the local property tax. The states provide funding for public education through sales and income taxes. The federal government contributes approximately 8.5 percent of public school funding. Thus, should a child's home address determine the quality of education that the child receives?

Senator Tim Owens will join the Johnson County League of Women Voters to present insights on the challenges and promise that public education provides for our democracy.

*We look forward to seeing you!*



## **National Education Study**



Also at the November 5 meeting, the Education Study consensus team will report briefly on the findings of the four October consensus meetings. Two sessions were held on Questions 1-9, with two more sessions on Questions 10-15. The sessions' discussion leaders were Nan Wilson, Carol Snyder, Gwynne Lee and Diane Kuhn.



## *President's Message*

I'm happy to report that the "busy bees" of the League are continuing their good work. The member turnout was good for the recent Charter Commission hearing and their voices were heard. The Voter Services Committee is laying the groundwork for the Johnson County Votes 2012 project. We are conscientiously keeping track of councils, commissions, and committees throughout our area. The Government Committee has grown and has effectively developed the "Let's Talk Issues" programs for this year. We continue to register new citizens at their naturalization ceremonies. We reach out and we continue to study issues. And, we prepare for even more activity as we look toward 2012 and the elections to come.

It's important for us to keep all of these activities in mind because they represent the League's mission. They all take volunteers. They all take people willing to give time. That's why we expanded our summer event into the League Preview Party. The event was held at a public setting and designed to encourage more member participation and include more guests. And, it worked. We had a good time, made new League friends, and added new members.

Now, we anticipate expanding another of our events, the **Annual Holiday Party**. Actually, it will stay the same with the same excellent food brought by members and the same invitations sent to all who have agreed to run for election or serve in elected office in the past year. The difference will occur in what you are able to do. Just as you invited your friends to come in August, the Holiday Party will also be open to your guests. Now they too can enjoy the food and meet our candidates and elected guests.

But, it's only October, why mention this now? Well, for the same reason we are already planning for the 2012 elections. Starting now, we have time to consider who we can invite and get it on calendars. Visiting with neighbors, church friends, or casual acquaintances, it's simple enough to mention the Holiday Party -- **December 3, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the Central Resource Library.**

**Our League has a strong record of stepping up to get things done, but we can't just rest on past successes.** This year and next, we will need extra help with registering voters, holding candidate forums, and continuing our other programs and studies. It is important that we continue to build membership and to engage new and younger members. We cannot only rely on our "veteran" members. More members will directly impact what we undertake and what we are able to accomplish. And, new members will insure that the League remains effective and relevant in the future. Growth has a purpose. **The stronger the League remains, the more it can promote and protect the right to vote in the next elections.**

*Harriet Duff*

### **Board Briefs** August 6 meeting

- Ellen Miller reported the four consensus meetings about the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education will be Oct. 4, Oct. 24, Oct. 26 and Oct. 27. On October 29, a final session will review consensus findings to bring to the general meeting and board on November 5.
- Carol Wadsworth directed members to the newly revised LWVJC website. <http://lwvjco.wordpress.com> She said all archives will soon be available on the website.
- Harriet Duff announced the annual Holiday Party will be December 3, from 2 - 4 p.m. at the Johnson County Central Resource Library. She encourages the full membership to bring guests. Ann Sanders noted that the League will invite all political candidates in recent elections. Follow-up calls by student volunteers have been very helpful in the past and should be continued.

*Polly Swafford*

## LWVUS Privatization Study

While our Johnson County League chose only to undertake the recommended study on the federal role in education, some members may wish to educate themselves on Privatization of Government, the second recommended study. The purpose of this study is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good.

The study committee will provide a history and background of privatization, a glossary of terms, legal issues to be considered when privatizing at different levels of government, current state regulations on privatizing and case studies on successful and unsuccessful privatizing efforts. Finally, the committee will provide suggested policies and parameters to be considered when privatizing.

The timeline is:

August to October 2011 - Information provided to Local and State Leagues

November 2011 to May 2012 – Leagues are encouraged to participate in the study on Privatization of Government Services, Assets and Functions and the impact on local communities by scheduling meetings to educate members and communities about the issue and come to consensus. Study materials are now posted on the LWVUS website, [lww.org](http://lww.org).

Other recommended reading includes:

- The Meaning of Privatization, Paul Starr, Yale Law and Policy Review 6 (1988) 6-41
- Privatization: A Seattle League Study
- Government Privatization: History, Examples, and Issues

Contact Committee Chair, Janis McMillen, [jkmcmillen@kc.rr.com](mailto:jkmcmillen@kc.rr.com) with questions.

## Naturalization Ceremonies

Naturalization Ceremonies are held at the Federal Courthouse in KCK at 5th and State usually on the last Friday of every month. The ceremony begins at 1:30 p.m. and lasts about 45 minutes. We then register the new citizens to vote, which takes about an hour. If you would like to attend and participate in this moving event, please contact Virginia Johnson at (770-757-2136 or [johnson.virginia@yahoo.com](mailto:johnson.virginia@yahoo.com)). Please mark your calendar for the upcoming Naturalization Ceremonies.

- October 28                      Magistrate Judge David J. Waxse
- November 18\*                 Judge James P. O'Hara
- December 16\*                 Judge John W. Lundstrum

\* *Due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, the ceremonies will be held earlier in the month..*

The September 29 Naturalization Ceremony had 88 applicants from 34 countries with 34 registering to vote. The September 30 Naturalization Ceremony had 88 applicants from 31 countries with 35 registering to vote.

*Virginia Johnson*

## Let's Talk Issues

**Let's Talk Issues** is a public service program co-sponsored by JCCC and the League of Women Voters of Johnson County. Programs are presented six times a year, three in the fall and three in the spring.

Let's Talk Issues programs are taped in the JCCC TV Studio. The September program focused on "Changes in Topeka." The topic for the October program was "Health Care: Who Pays the Bill Now and in the Future," with Dolores Furtado as moderator.

Moderator Pat All has assembled a terrific panel for the November 2 program on "The Future of Education in Kansas: Will it meet the needs of students in our community?" The panelists include: Dr. Marlin Berry, Olathe Superintendent; Dr. Gene Johnson, Shawnee Mission Superintendent; David A. Smith, Chief of Staff Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools; Ms. Sue Storm, Kansas State Board of Education District 2; and Blake West, President of Kansas National Education Association. "We will focus our education discussion about the impact of our local public schools on the quality of life in our area, the challenges facing public schools in our state, and other current issues," said Pat..

Previous Let's Talk Issues programs may be accessed through the college website: [www.jccc.edu](http://www.jccc.edu). Click on Library and Technology, then scroll down to Software and Online Resources, click JCCC Videos, then select **Let's Talk Issues**.

*Ann Etter*

## Study on Tax Reform in Kansas

State finance has been a continuing League interest since 1936 when attention was given to reform of tax systems to provide revenue for essential governmental services through an **equitable** distribution of the tax burden. The 1993 LWVK Convention adopted a program updating the 1936 position on state finance with emphasis on the tax mix: income tax, sales tax, and property tax. That position is: The LWVK supports a broad-based state tax system that has diverse sources of revenue and that is equitable, provides adequate revenue, and is effectively and economically administered.

At the April 2011 LWVK Convention delegates voted *to undertake a two-year re-study of our current position on state finance to consider the consequences of proposed changes and advocate for a balanced tax system that reflects League's positions.*

During the months prior to fall 2012 when all Kansas Leagues will be asked to take consensus in response to LWVK consensus questions, it is important for members to apprise themselves of efforts of the Governor and the 2012 Legislature to make significant changes to the existing tax structure.

*The Kansas City Star* does offer some news about Kansas politics, but the *Wichita Eagle*, *Lawrence Journal World*, and *Topeka Capitol Journal* give more comprehensive news and information. On September 21 the *Wichita Eagle* featured an article about the Governor's upcoming economic plan proposing deep tax cuts, streamlined regulatory processes and big changes to the public-employee retirement system.

Working with Arthur Laffer (President Reagan's supply-side economist), Brownback's administration is using advanced software to weigh scenarios to gutting – and possibly eliminating – the state income tax. Laffer's economic theory states that tax cuts lead to growth that ultimately creates more income for government than it had with a higher tax rate.

Efforts in the 2011 Kansas Senate proposing a five year phase out of corporate taxes beginning in 2010 failed, but state Senator Les Donovan recently said he believes the Governor's proposals to dramatically cut state income taxes in 2012 will have broad support in Topeka. ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) and Americans for Prosperity endorse Governor Brownback's plans.

Because League has always supported a broad-based tax system equally balanced between sales, property, and income tax, we are concerned about possible changes to our present system in the interests of economic growth. We note that Texas, praised for its high job creation and low taxes, has the fifth most regressive tax system in the United States, according to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. It also has the sixth highest poverty rate and ranks first for adults currently without a high school diploma.

The State Tax Study Team hopes that all League members will go to [lwvk.org](http://lwvk.org) to find links to the many resources available on Kansas taxes. Also, google "Who Pays? A Distributional Analysis of the Tax Systems in All 50 States." It provides an excellent assessment of state and local taxes on their own residents and comparisons between the most regressive and progressive state tax structures.

And, of course, check newspapers from around the state to update progress on the Governor's and legislators' proposals. This is an issue that affects the quality of life for all Kansans.

*Diane Kuhn*

## In Memoriam

Long-time League member Marjorie Rees, 90, of Prairie Village, KS, died September 27. During World War II, Marjorie served with the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). In 1977, the "fly girls" were finally recognized as veterans. In 2010, the surviving WASPs were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

As a League officer, Marjorie shared the position of 1st Vice-President with Betty Nichols. She also served on the Johnson County Commission on Aging, the Foundation of Aging and the Silver-Haired Legislature.

At age 60, Marjorie returned to her love of dance, tap dancing with The Classics, a senior performing group. Another passion was ballroom dancing. When she was 85, Marjorie competed at the Heart of America Ballroom Championship. She won first place three years in succession.

*Ann Norbury*

## Membership

Welcome to Fall and the start of another great year with the League. Don't forget to invite your friends and neighbors to join us. We're always looking for new members. If you know anyone that may be interested and want more information, just have them call Nancy or Susan. We'll be glad to provide them with our highlights.

*Nancy Gatz and Susan Horst  
768-4740 or 268-2634  
LWVJC Membership Co-Chairs*

## Member Spotlight: Sandy Ackerson

“Retirement,” Sandy Ackerson says, “is a time to do what you enjoy.” Consequently Sandy joined the Johnson County League of Women Voters soon after retiring from her career of teaching history in the DeSoto and Olathe school districts. Ann Sanders, who was President of the League when Sandy joined, immediately asked her to judge the essay contest the League was sponsoring for junior high school students.

History and politics have long been her interest. She says, “I love to learn about current issues of local and state governments. Things change rapidly as politicians drive positions. I want to know what they think even though I don’t always agree.”



Her interest continues. Today Sandy is Second Vice President in charge of publishing the annual meeting booklet. She is also chair person for the Speakers’ Bureau. Candy Birch suggested to Sandy the need for another program, and she immediately developed one on the Electoral College. Sandy’s program has proven to be popular, especially during an election year. She has presented it to numerous civic organizations and is ever prepared for questions because to this day she always carries with her a copy of the Constitution.

Sandy was born and raised in Kansas City, KS. She received her BA in Education and MA in History at Kansas University. She has three grown children. Erik lives on St. Thomas Islands and works for a yachting consortium and conducts a radio program about maritime issues. Her second son Kirk and his wife Stacy live in Olathe and have two children. Kirk is a social media specialist for the American Academy of Physicians. Daughter Beth and her husband, Charlie White, own Precise Motion and Control company in Tampa, FL, and design computer software applications for various companies.

“My philosophy for getting information to my students,” Sandy says, “was to use various types of modern communication, both visual and auditory. I text my grandchildren as it is their preferred mode of contact. The League does a good job and must continue in keeping up to date with social media. With the 2012 elections approaching, we need to continue to reach out to the apathetic public with educational programs about the new voter laws.”

In addition to her devotion to the League, Sandy now has time in retirement to participate in three bridge groups, has served as President of her Homes Association for 12 years, is a member of the Central Exchange and facilitates the Great Discussion Group for the Central Exchange. She participates in the Civil War Round Table and has served as its president. She is also active in her church as kitchen facilitator, member of the “Green Team,” and facilitator for the Servant Community of Heartland Episcopal Currillo.

“I like the League,” Sandy says. “It’s a really interesting group of people who have the love of government in common. I enjoy the programs and love to learn.”

*Polly Swafford*

**Need to contact us? Send messages to: [LWVJoCo@yahoo.com](mailto:LWVJoCo@yahoo.com)**

# Voter Registration Update

Visit the Johnson County Election Office's website [www.jocoelection.org](http://www.jocoelection.org) for detailed information.

## Am I Registered to Vote?

To confirm that you are registered, go to the website, click on Voter Lookup, enter your name and birthdate, then review the information.

## Voter Registration

To register to vote, or change your registration, print the Voter Registration Application, complete all information, sign and send it to the Election Office. Registration Applications may be mailed to 2101 E. Kansas City Road, Olathe, KS 66061; Faxed to 913-791-8934 or 913-791-8935 or scanned and e-mailed to [registration@jocoelection.org](mailto:registration@jocoelection.org).

- To register, you must be a United States citizen, a resident of the State of Kansas, and have reached the age of 18 years before the next election.
- State law requires that all first-time voters show identification at one of four points in the registration process: at the time of registration; after registration and before Election Day; on Election Day; or after Election Day and before the county canvass.
- The Kansas driver's license number or the last four digits of your Social Security number are required on the registration application.
- You may register to vote at any time. However, voter registration always closes 21 days prior to an Election Day. Applications must be postmarked no later than the 21st day prior to any election in order to be eligible to vote.
- If you **change your name or address**, or wish to **change your party affiliation**, you are required to update your voter registration by completing a new voter registration application.

## Voter Registration Sites

Residents may register to vote at one of the following locations:

- Agencies: Broadmoor Center; Community Living Opportunity, Inc.; Department of Public Health (Mission); Department of Public Health (Olathe); Johnson County Developmental Supports; Johnson County Housing Authority; Johnson County Mental Health Center; Johnson County Mental Health Services (CSS); Kansas State School for the Deaf; Mid America Chapter NMSS; and SRS. Check the website for location and office hours.
- Driver's License Offices in Olathe and Shawnee Mission
- City Halls
- Johnson County Election Office at 2101 E. Kansas City Road in Olathe
- Johnson County Administration Building, Office of County Clerk

## ID Requirements for First-Time Voters

Kansas State law requires that all first-time voters in the county **show identification at one of four points in the registration process**:

- at the time of registration
- after registration and before Election Day
- on Election Day
- after Election Day and before the county canvass

To satisfy the voter identification requirement of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) in Kansas, **a voter must provide ID that meets one of the following criteria**:

- ID must contain the voter's name and photo or the voter's name and current residential address
- ID must contain 2 of the following 3 items: name, current residential address, photo
- if an ID contains an address, it must match the residential address on the voter's registration record

Accepted documents include: Driver's License, Bank Statement, Utility Bill, Paycheck, Government Check, or Other Government Document. The Election Office website provides complete details.

## Judicial Diversity Follow-up

To Kansas League of Women Voters:

I'm writing with additional results from our "Quest for a More Diverse Judiciary" education campaign in Kansas. It appears that our outreach work has inspired the Kansas judiciary to continue interacting with the public after the conclusion of our slate of campaign events. As part of an increased commitment to transparency and public outreach, the Office of Judicial Administration has initiated a limited travel schedule for 2011.

In March and April, judges from the Court of Appeals, which traditionally sits in Topeka, sat in the communities of Pittsburg, McPherson, and Leavenworth to hear appeals, and participated while in the area in a variety of official outreach programs that targeted local students and citizens. On September 21, the Court of Appeals again heard cases outside the courthouse, this time meeting at Wichita State University in Topeka (see details: <http://www.kscourts.org/Kansas-Courts/General-Information/news-releases.asp#090611d>) as part of the school's observation of Constitution Day (9/16).

And in a historic first, the Kansas Supreme Court has traveled outside Topeka to hear appeals, first visiting Salina on April 13. Now, on September 28 in Greensburg and September 29 in Wichita, the Kansas Supreme Court heard oral arguments on nine of its annual cases (see details: <http://www.kscourts.org/Kansas-Courts/General-Information/news-releases.asp#083011>). The court proceedings were to be open to the public and available live online on the Kansas Judicial Branch website ([www.kscourts.org](http://www.kscourts.org)).

I encourage you to share this information with your membership, especially those Leagues near the events in Wichita, Salina, Great Bend, and Topeka, with members that may be able to attend in person. Thank you for lighting a fire for public outreach under our judges!

*Cindy Padera  
Specialist on the Judiciary and the Courts  
League of Women Voters*

## OBSERVER CORPS REPORTS

### **Johnson County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)** September 22 meeting

- During Public Comments, Representative Charlotte O'Hara made a plea to the Commissioners that the County withdraw from the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives, a program of the UN's Agenda 21 effort that outlines policies for sustainability. Rep. O'Hara claims that this initiative endangers individual property rights.
- November 15 is America Recycles Day, and the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) is encouraging a friendly recycling competition among the region's cities. Glass collected in the purple Ripple Glass bins around the county is used to make cullet as part of the fiberglass insulation manufacturing process. The bins in Prairie Village collect more glass than any other in the region. Therefore, Prairie Village will be challenging all metro area communities with Ripple Glass bins to see who can recycle the most glass during November.

### **Johnson County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)** September 29 meeting

The JO bus route known as the K-10 Connector has the highest ridership; it always increases in August with school starting. In August 2007, there were 7,364 riders on this route; in August 2011, there were 10,672 riders. It is projected that in September 2011, the number of riders will be 20,300, compared with 9,637 in September 2007. Some buses on the K-10 route have standing room only. It should be noted that ridership has increased on many other routes as well, with overall JO ridership up 13 percent over 2010. The county staff is looking at ways to increase capacity on the JO's highest ridership routes. It is interesting to note that funding requests to support this route have been made to the University of Kansas, Jo Co Community College, the City of Lawrence and Douglas County....without success.

### **Johnson County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)** October 6 meeting

- A policy relating to housing for county employees was adopted. The policy states that no employee is given housing as a condition of employment or as a benefit of employment. In those special circumstances where an employee must be on site 24 hours a day, such as the horse stables, housing will be provided – with the prior consent of the BOCC. This is a result of audit findings reported a few months ago that certain county employees were living in houses on county grounds, but were not paying rent.
- The Johnson County Environmental Department, in conjunction with the cities of Merriam and Overland Park, will offer evening seminars focused on the upcoming curbside recycling, yard waste and trash service changes.

*Janis McMillen*

### **Olathe School Board** October 6 meeting

- The Board approved the Construction Management Proposal submitted by Universal Construction Company for the Technical Education Center. The TEC will be funded by the 2007 bond issue and will be built on the Olathe North campus.
- The Board learned that the 2011-12 "official" enrollment count taken on September 20 was 28,288. This was an increase of 289 over last year, making this the 46<sup>th</sup> year in a row that the district has increased its enrollment.
- The Board heard a report on the Common Core Standards, a national initiative to set core standards. Forty-four states have adopted the standards, including Kansas.

*Connie Richards*

**Johnson County Library Board**                      October 19 meeting

- The Library's RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) pilot tagging project has been successfully completed with the tagging of the collections at Antioch and Lackman Branch Libraries. The retro-tagging of the collections at Central Resource Library was begun on September 12 and is being done while the Central Library is open. Blue Valley Neighborhood Library will be closed in mid-November for tagging.
- Librarian Donna Lauffer is a member of the Kansas State Library Advisory Board. That group is selecting a new vendor for electronic publications. The state budget is estimated to decline another 5 percent in 2012-2013.
- The summer reading program, which is funded by the Friends of the Library, was based on the theme, "One World, Many Stories." There were 13,348 participants with 3978 children completing the program. The 158 programs were attended by 4848 patrons and 114,242 books were read. Seventy percent of the participants were ages 8 and younger.

*Connie Richards*

**Shawnee Mission School Board**                      September 28 meeting

- District Highlights: Amanda Jessee of Westwood View Elementary School was recognized as Kansas History Teacher of the year.
- Recommendations for action: Approval of change to the Shawnee Mission High School Activities Handbook with increasing ticket prices up to \$10 per person. Second Reading of Revised Board Policy JFBA-Intra-District Transfers. Second Reading of Revised Board Policy JFBAE-Intra-District Transfer forms and second reading of deleted Board Policy JJD-student activities fees.
- Report to the Board: Gillian Chapman, Ed.D Associate Superintendent presented an update on the Five Year Strategic Plan, which is in its second year.

**Shawnee Mission School Board**                      October 10 meeting

- Board Comments: Patty Mack, Board Represented for SM Northwest, mentioned attending the Band Program during half-time of a football game. She also mentioned that a second grade class used the pool at SM Northwest and the principal was in the pool too and everyone had a ball. She said it would be wonderful if all the second grade classes could have this swimming lesson experience.

*Virginia Johnson*

**Johnson County Community College Board of Trustees**                      October 20 meeting

- Elisa Waldman, head of the JCCC small business program has been awarded the 2011 State Star award for professionalism and ingenuity in program development and presentation.
- Revision of Board policy regarding service of Alcoholic Beverages (when, where, etc) was returned to the Management committee for clarification.
- Treasurer, Trustee Drummond, reported that finances are in very good shape based on budget.
- Custodial services. After thorough review it has been determined that housekeeping services will remain in house rather than being outsourced. While the raw numbers might look good, it included intangibles such as the probability of hiring back some of the same employees via the firm winning the contract, but with much reduced salary and benefit package. A benefit of this evaluation, however, is identification of possibilities of savings within this area, including closing some buildings earlier at night and turning out all building lights for longer periods at night.
- Gina Galanou was welcomed in her new position as Student Senate President.

*Ann Arnott*

**Wyandotte County United Government Commission**                      October 6 meeting

- The Board approved all 11 items. The items consisted of appointing delegates to send to two meetings, an ordinance establishing an alternative and pilot method of regulating traffic in one specific neighborhood, authorizing a land survey for BNSF Railroad for a bridge, seven appointments to various boards and commissions, one business application, the minutes for four prior regular sessions of the Commission, weekly business material for three dates and one resolution setting a public hearing date of 11-17-2011 to consider the establishment of a redevelopment district.
- Public Hearing about the current carport ordinance and compliance factors. The staff presented a computer program showing the history and current status of the ordinance. Many carports have been built without permits and some do not comply with the building codes and the zoning laws. Residents have been notified that they had to bring the carports into compliance or tear them down and they were given years to do this. Deadline to comply is 12-31-2011. Because of the number of complaints that have been received, this public hearing was scheduled. About 15 people spoke to the commission about the problems they have had getting correct information from the various city departments they have to deal with about the permits, the cost factor in bringing the carports up to code, etc. The first carport ordinance was adopted in 1984 and revised in 2008. Some of the people who spoke have had their carports since the 1940s. No grandfather clause was included in the ordinance. A special session to work on this will be held on 10-27-2011 on the 6th floor of City Hall at 5 p.m. One of primary concerns about the carports is a safety issue for wind storms and heavy loads of snow and ice. Final action will be taken at the regular commission meeting on 11-3-2011. Some of the factors involved are tie down requirements, where the carport is located in relation to the house, etc.

*Pat Yingst and Marilyn Bynum*

## Recent U.S. Senate Votes

[Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011](#) - Vote **Passed** (70-27, 3 Not Voting)

The Senate passed this bill that would provide additional assistance to workers affected by foreign trade agreements. It would also revive the Generalized System of Preferences program that is intended to help developing countries expand their trade. Speaker John Boehner said the House will consider the bill if the president submits trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea to Congress.

Sen. Pat Roberts voted **NO** Sen. Jerry Moran voted **YES**

[Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act of 2011](#) - Vote **Passed** (63-35, 2 Not Voting) The Senate passed this bill last week that would allow economic sanctions to be placed on China for keeping its currency value artificially low. The House is unlikely to vote on the measure.

Sen. Pat Roberts voted **NO** Sen. Jerry Moran voted **NO**

[American Jobs Act of 2011](#) - Vote **Rejected** (50-49, 1 Not Voting) The Senate did not reach the necessary 60 votes to end debate on the president's comprehensive \$447 billion jobs bill, effectively tabling the legislation. Parts of the bill will likely be considered in multiple smaller bills.

Sen. Pat Roberts voted **NO** Sen. Jerry Moran voted **NO**

[United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act](#) - Vote **Passed** (83-15, 2 Not Voting) The Senate voted to implement a trade pact with South Korea. The House approved the bill earlier in the day and the president is expected to sign the bill into law.

Sen. Pat Roberts voted **YES** Sen. Jerry Moran voted **YES**

[United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act](#) - Vote **Passed** (77-22, 1 Not Voting) The Senate approved a trade pact with Panama. The House passed the bill earlier the same day and the president is expected to sign it into law.

Sen. Pat Roberts voted **YES** Sen. Jerry Moran voted **YES**

[United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act](#) - Vote **Passed** (66-33, 1 Not Voting) The Senate passed this bill to implement a trade agreement with Colombia. The House approved the bill earlier in the day and the president is expected to sign it into law.

Sen. Pat Roberts voted **YES** Sen. Jerry Moran voted **YES**

## Recent U.S. House Votes

[Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act](#) - Vote **Passed** (365-54, 12 Not Voting) The House passed this bill to expand successful charter school programs, the first part of an effort to overhaul and reauthorize the No Child Left Behind Act. The Senate is likely to consider charter school legislation as part of a broader reauthorization of No Child Left Behind rather than as a stand-alone bill.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **YES**

[Short-Term Continuing Appropriations](#) - Vote **Passed** (219-203, 11 Not Voting) This bill would fund the government through the first seven weeks of the 2012 fiscal year, which starts on October 1. The bill offsets an increase in federal disaster aid by reducing funding for two Energy Department loan programs. The Senate subsequently rejected the bill and scheduled a vote on an alternate version this week.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **YES**

[Cumulative Regulatory Analysis](#) - Vote **Passed** (249-169, 15 Not Voting) The House passed this bill that would delay the EPA's implementation of two air pollution regulations. The bill also requires the president to establish a commission to report on the cost of certain EPA regulations. The Senate is unlikely to take up the bill.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **YES**

[Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012](#) - Vote **Passed** (352-66, 15 Not Voting) The House gave final approval to this measure that funds the government through November 18 at the level agreed to in the August debt limit law. The new fiscal year began on October 1 with none of the annual spending bills completed. President Obama signed the bill.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **NO**

[Cement Sector Regulatory Relief Act of 2011](#) - Vote **Passed** (262-161, 10 Not Voting) The House voted to delay the EPA's implementation of air pollution rules for cement plants by 15 months. The Senate is unlikely to take up the bill. The White House has also threatened to veto the bill.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **YES**

[United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act](#) - Vote **Passed** (262-167, 4 Not Voting) The House passed this bill to implement a trade pact with Colombia. The Senate approved the bill later in the day and the president is expected to sign it into law.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **YES**

[United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act](#) - Vote **Passed** (300-129, 4 Not Voting) The House approved this bill to implement a trade pact with Panama. The Senate approved the bill later in the day and the president is expected to sign it into law.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **YES**

[United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act](#) - Vote **Passed** (278-151, 4 Not Voting) The House passed this trade agreement with South Korea. The Senate approved the bill later in the day and the president is expected to sign it into law.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **YES**

[EPA Regulatory Relief Act of 2011](#) - Vote **Passed** (275-142, 16 Not Voting) The House passed this bill that would delay EPA emissions rules for boilers, solid-waste incinerators and process heaters, requiring the EPA to re-propose the rules and finalize them 15 months after the bill's enactment. The Senate is unlikely to vote on the legislation.

Rep. Kevin Yoder voted **YES**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
 OF JOHNSON COUNTY  
 9531 MEADOW LANE  
 LEAWOOD KS 66206**

## **Upcoming Events**

<b>Friday October 28</b>	<b>Naturalization Ceremony:</b> Register new voters; 1:30 p.m.; Federal Courthouse, 5th and State, Kansas City, KS
<b>Saturday November 5</b>	<b>General Meeting: "Public Education: Challenges and Promise"</b> 8:30 a.m. social time, 9 a.m. program, 11 a.m. board meeting; Atonement Lutheran Church, 9948 Metcalf, Overland Park, KS
<b>Friday November 18</b>	<b>Naturalization Ceremony:</b> Register new voters; 1:30 p.m.; Federal Courthouse, 5th and State, Kansas City, KS
<b>Saturday December 3</b>	<b>LWV Holiday party:</b> 2-4 p.m.; Central Resource Library, 9875 W. 87 <sup>th</sup> Street, Overland Park, KS.
<b>Friday December 16</b>	<b>Naturalization Ceremony:</b> Register new voters; 1:30 p.m.; Federal Courthouse, 5th and State, Kansas City, KS

**The deadline for the December VOTER is November 15.**