

# The Kansas Voter



Winter 2012

League of Women Voters of Kansas

*Working together...for Kansas*

## League Day at the Capital February 15

### ■ Crucial Legislative

#### Session in 2012

by Ernestine Krehbiel

February 15, 2012 (8:30–2:30) will be our day in Topeka to learn about and discuss what is happening in the 2012 legislative session.

This year's legislature will have bills dealing with most all areas of LWVK positions—voting, taxes, school finance, health care (Medicaid and mental health), women's choice, immigration—well, you get the picture that this will be one of the busiest years for League effort.

Coming to Topeka this early in the session allows us an opportunity to follow up with our legislators when there is still time for our voices to make a difference on proposed legislation. It's close to the TURN-AROUND day, when bills are dead unless they have passed in their chamber of origin.

Issues that are likely to be brought to the legislature are numerous:

- Pushing up the voter repression legislation to March 2012 instead of Jan 2013 – Birth Certificate requirement for voter registration and marriage docs for women who have changed name at marriage;
- A version may be submitted for law on undocumented immigrants tougher than either Arizona or Alabama's law;
- Eliminating some or ALL income tax, replacing it with sales taxes on utilities and non-profits and raising sales taxes in general. Raise property tax?;

- "Rearranging" funding for Medicaid, schools, mental health, SRS, juvenile justice, etc;
- Pushing some crucial government services to charities and churches as well as counties.

We encourage you to invite your legislator(s) for lunch. LWVK will cover the cost of lunches for them. But be sure to turn in registrations for your guest legislator and other guests. **See the registration form on page 8.**

Members really should contact legislators for appointments prior to coming to Topeka on Feb. 15 and plan to meet that day after 2:30, as legislators are not likely to be available for walk-in appointments. (Phone calls, e-mails, and hand-written letters prior to League Day would be especially good when meeting with them so you can remind them of your previous contact.) Find out from your local Board if you may speak for your whole League, too.

#### Parking:

LWVK has obtained permission from the Department of Administration to park vehicles in State Parking Lot #1 located south of the Judicial Center during League Day at the Capital, February 15, 2012. To ensure that members who choose to park their vehicles in Lot #1 are not ticketed, the following information must be provided at the time of registration in the morning: vehicle owner's name,

#### League Day at the Capital

February 15, 2012 - 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

At the Kansas Bar Association,  
1200 SW Harrison, Topeka

Fee: \$25 - includes continental breakfast, snack, lunch, and program

vehicle registration plate number (tag number), brief description of vehicle (i.e., tan 2010 Nissan), contact telephone number. You may park your vehicle in any space not reserved with signage. To avoid receiving a parking ticket, members must NOT park their vehicles in any parking space marked as reserved or any parking spaces marked as Visitor Parking. Spaces reserved for Visitor Parking are for a maximum of four hours. Moving your vehicle will not extend the time. Parking citations for vehicles parked illegally in the state lots begin at \$15.

#### Rally on Capitol Steps Follows Feb. 15 Meeting

Also on Feb. 15, a number of groups (such as the one formed when the SRS offices were cut, Kansans United in Voice and Spirit) plan to rally and demonstrate at the Capitol that day on the governor's "war against the poor." It will include groups that are upset about voter suppression, impact of tax proposals, education, medical and welfare cuts, etc. League members who choose can join the rally after our adjournment at 2:30 p.m. That is also when legislators are likely to be in their offices. 3

## Two-year Tax Study

by Study Committee

The State Finance 2-year study team, *KS Tax - Who Pays*, met November 19, 2011 in Topeka to review the LWVK current position on State Finance to determine if and how it should be revised. Our purpose was to ensure that the position remains appropriate for lobbying during the upcoming Legislative Session and to develop talking points for members and local leagues to use when communicating during their legislator. Lee Rowe led the review of the current State Finance position which reads: Support a broad-based state tax system with diverse sources of revenue that is effectively and economically administered. Support a school finance plan that makes equivalent resources available to each pupil regardless of the wealth of any particular district. The team reviewed the standards for State Finance established in support of the League's position including equity, adequacy, ease of administration, and consistency with economic goals. Also included in Lee's review was the February-March 2010 Legislative Post Audit Findings on Kansas Tax Reviews (see [www.lwvk.org](http://www.lwvk.org) Kansas Taxes, Who Pays?).

Issues identified for consideration included: Sunset provisions or reviews of existing tax exemptions, credits for taxes paid in other states, elimination of taxes on food vs. current exemptions, support for sales tax on Internet purchases, past decreased corporate income taxes, number of tax brackets, estate taxes, quality of care with current and additional cuts to social services, and a definition of the term "adequacy" in our current state finance position.

The review led to the development of many questions which the team assigned to members for the development of white papers to respond to these questions and to provide valuable information concerning *KS Tax — Who Pays* to league members.

The questions developed by the team include the following which are not reported in order of importance:

- What is a "Flat Tax?"
- What would be the impact on state revenue if sales tax is removed from food purchases?
- What may be the impact of additional reduction in State finance to education in Kansas?
- What is the positive impact of the Laffer Curve to Kansas government finance?
- What is the negative impact of the Laffer Curve to Kansas government finance?
- What is the impact of a sales tax on utilities?
- How do agencies get funded? (budget cycles, revenue consensus group. Legislative session)
- What impact would the elimination of the estate tax have on state revenue?

Additional questions to be answered with a white paper include in no order of importance:

- Should the State Finance position include a recommendation concerning sales tax on Internet sales?
- What would be the impact of the elimination of income tax credits on taxes paid to other states?
- What would be the revenue impact of removing income tax on corporations?
- Does the State Finance position need to enhance the definition of "adequacy"?
- Should LWVK recommend more tax brackets on income? If so, what is the impact on taxpayers?
- Should LWVK recommend a performance review on sales tax exemptions? 3

### Kansas Tax Study

by Carole A. Neale

The tax study at times becomes **T**overwhelming. Due to the changes being recommended by the governor's office, instead of reviewing our current position to determine if it is current and relevant, we find that we

must defend our current position to protect funding of basic social services. Several things are becoming evident in what is happening with current events. The budgeting process for the state is driven by the expenditures. As you can see from the following recap of the Kansas constitution the legislature is to provide sufficient revenue to cover current expenses of the state. By cutting agencies, reducing services and funding for education, the expenses of the state are less, so consequently taxes can be reduced.

### The State Constitution on Taxes

The foundation of state tax policy is found in the Kansas constitution and the statutes that comprise tax law.

The Kansas Constitution, adopted by the voters of the state, establishes the broad framework for taxation. The legislature enacts laws that fill in the details. For the most part, the constitution authorizes rather than requires establishment of particular taxes. Specifically, the constitution creates authority:

- For a system of classification of property for purposes of taxation and for exemptions from property tax (Article 11, Secs. 1, 12, and 13)
- For an income tax (Article 11, Secs. 2 and 11)
- To incur debt in certain circumstances and to levy taxes to pay certain state debts (Article 11, Secs. 6 - 8)
- To expend funds for certain internal improvements and to expend federal funds under certain circumstances (Article 11, Sec. 9)
- For vehicle and motor fuels taxes to fund highway projects (Article 11, Sec. 10)

In addition, the constitution requires the legislature to provide for raising sufficient revenue to defray the current expenses of the state, that taxes be imposed as required by law that specifies the object of the tax (Article 11, Secs. 4 -5),

*continued on page 3*

## Tax Study, continued

The Kansas tax laws are primarily found in Chapter 79 of Kansas Statutes Annotated.

In looking at our current position, it seems very straight forward.

### State Finance

**BACKGROUND:** State Finance has been of continuing interest and study since 1936 when attention was given to reform of tax systems to provide adequate revenue for essential governmental services through an equitable distribution of the tax burden. Additional studies have resulted in positions on school finance and on standards of a modern equitable tax system with specific positions on severance, sales and income taxes.

### Statement of Position

*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.*

**See the LWVK web site for the full statement and explanation.**

The league tax committee has decided to allocate different areas of the position as well as addressing changes to the tax code and how those changes would affect the overall well-being of the citizens of Kansas to individuals to create white papers that can be used not only to review the League's position but also to address the legislature on effects of changes being proposed. We'll keep you updated since changes are happening quickly. 3

## Statement on Governor's Tax Proposals

*by Ernestine Krehbiel*

In a press release issued by LWVK on January 14, the League stated that the bottom 80 percent of the state's earners would collectively see a tax hike under the Governor's plan, while Kansans in the top 20 percent income bracket would see substantial

tax cuts. Those making a million dollars or more per year in Kansas would have a tax cut of over \$16,000. However, his plan (which eliminates the earned income tax credit) impacts a single mother with one child who is working full-time earning \$9.60 per hour – she would experience an annual Kansas tax increase of \$442.

For most middle- and low-income Kansans, the tax break from the income tax rate cuts would be completely off-set in total taxes by the loss of income tax credits and itemized deductions, as well as a higher sales tax rate. This information



*LWVK President Ernestine Krehbiel*

is from the Institute on Tax and Economic Policy, which has released an analysis of the impact of Governor Brownback's plan for income and tax and sales tax. (See our web site.)

The governor's cut in the state's income tax further causes many questions about where the money will come from to make the investments in education, transportation, public safety (or the hint of restoring arts funding) and other areas crucial to making the state attractive for families and businesses.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has researched experiences in other states. Those without income taxes have high property and sales taxes, or have other sources of income: Texas has oil and shipping, Florida has a sales tax that captures foreign tourist dollars, Wyoming has coal, and Washington State has home-grown Microsoft and Boeing.

Will schools have the resources they need to provide an education that helps people compete for good jobs in today's global economy? Will a reduction in state support throw the responsibility onto local property taxes? Can Kansas effectively run a

health care system by putting it into the hands of the private sector?

Governor Brownback has in mind fundamental changes in how Kansas raises and spends money, and the income tax, which is the fairest of the types of state taxes, seems a strange place to start when he has said that his plans would be income neutral for the state. They will NOT be income neutral for middle- and lower-income Kansans — they will be hurt by his tax scheme. 3

## Gift to LWVK Endowment from Reed Estate

Recently deceased, Dale Reed with his wife, Wilma (also deceased), originally of Kansas City, Kansas, had maintained LWVK membership-at-large even after moving to Colorado. In his will he designated five percent of his estate to go to the LWVK Endowment Fund. Dale had promised the donation as part of a 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary campaign, which he led, to increase the Endowment. His gift amounted to \$5,282.23. We are very grateful.

What a thoughtful way to help the League. We should all remember the League in our wills as well as with our current financial contributions and our time, efforts, and in-kind donations now. You should be getting a letter soon requesting your financial gifts to the League of Women Voters of Kansas. 3

## Redistricting Committee Completes Tour

by Dolores Furtado

The Legislative Redistricting Committee has completed its 14 stop tour of the state. I want to thank the League members who presented testimony in Wichita, Manhattan, Topeka, Lawrence, Overland Park and Leavenworth. Overall, attendance at these meeting was modest and few members of the public actually testified. Senator Hensley presented a map of unknown origin that gerrymandered Congressional District 1 to include Wyandotte County. Such a boundary resembled the salamander shape (or dragon) causing members of the audience to realize the importance of the rules imposed on redistricting.

When I testified in Overland Park, I got questions about how to handle the reconfiguration of District 3 which must shed more than 54,000 residents in order to have equal numbers in each of our Congressional Districts. Right now the eastern portion of Douglas, Wyandotte and Johnson counties are in Congressional District 3. There is a little more leeway in drawing the state district boundaries, because a challenge could result in the Kansas Supreme Court drawing the map. The increased population in Johnson County calls for a gain in representation in the Kansas House (three seats) and in the Kansas Senate (one seat).

A question directed to me by Rep. Anthony Brown: What did the League mean by transparency? My response was to reiterate that the state public hearings were to obtain input which would be considered when drawing boundaries that would define the new districts.

It is my understanding that members of the committee are now working with Legislative Research to bring map proposals for discussion. The Committee of the Whole will come up with the Congressional Districts while House and Senate

members will work independently on drawing new boundaries for House and Senate districts. State Board of Education districts are defined as four contiguous Senate districts. The legislation will be merged into one bill that must be passed by both chambers before going to the Governor. The Kansas Supreme Court will review the outcome and respond to any challenges.

League members will be asked to attend the Redistricting meetings during the 2012 session. If you are able to attend please contact me [dfurtado08@gmail.com](mailto:dfurtado08@gmail.com) or phone 913-341-3072. You will be asked to provide a written summary of the meeting with an emphasis on any controversial aspects of the proposals. 3

## National Privatization Study

The LWVUS Privatization Study is to identify 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 LWVUS 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.

Information has been provided to local Leagues, and they are encouraged to participate in the study

by scheduling meetings to educate members and communities about the issue and come to consensus. Study materials are posted on the LWVUS website, [lww.org](http://lww.org). Other recommended reading is listed there, also.

Janis McMillen, LWVUS Director who is from our Johnson County League, is chairing this study. 3

## Brennan Center: FEC Fails to Enforce Super PAC Coordination Rules

The Federal Election Commission deadlocked on an American Crossroads request to allow federal candidates to coordinate with the Super PAC on its advertisements. "Karl Rove asked the FEC to declare that advertisements he admits are 'fully coordinated' with candidates nonetheless don't count as 'coordinated communications'—and the FEC's failure to decisively reject this absurd request proves it cannot enforce the campaign finance laws its commissioners are sworn to uphold," said Brennan Center senior counsel Adam Skaggs. "If the FEC cannot reach the correct result in such a black and white case, it must be replaced." The Brennan Center had urged the FEC to deny the request.

## Pressing Justice Dept. to Block New Texas Voter ID Law

The Brennan Center and other civil rights groups urged the Justice Department to block implementation of Texas's new voter ID law. Data shows that the new law, which imposes a government-issued photo ID requirement for voting, will disproportionately burden minority voters and produce discriminatory effects. Specifically, statistical analysis of Texas's own data shows conclusively that a higher percentage of Latino registered voters than white registered voters lack government-issued photo ID. 3

# The Brownback Tax Plan:

## Irresponsible Corporate Tax Breaks, Higher Taxes for Workers, But No New Jobs

Governor Brownback last week released a short-sighted, unsustainable tax plan that fails to create jobs or produce meaningful reforms that will help struggling families and workers. Instead, it's a plan that gives an enormous new tax break to large, profitable corporations and shifts costs onto the middle class and working poor at a time when they can least afford it. We are all for responsible policies that create jobs and build our state's economic future, but Brownback's plan doesn't get us there.

1. The governor's plan provides HUGE NEW TAX BREAKS for wealthy individuals and corporate owners, financed by higher taxes on the middle class and working poor.

- The governor's plan shifts taxes onto the middle class and the poor, who already pay more of their incomes in state and local taxes than higher income families.

- Some of the biggest benefits will go to wealthy individuals and a few large, privately-held corporations, who will be able to pocket unlimited profits tax-free under this plan while working families see a tax increase.

2. The governor's plan is BAD FOR JOBS.

- The governor has proposed NO accountability measures in his tax plan. There is not a single requirement in this bill that any recipient of tax breaks create jobs.

- The governor's plan will reduce the purchasing power of middle- and low-income families. Those are the people most likely to spend money in the local economy. This will hurt Kansas businesses.

- The plan will cost the state money. This will cause even more budget cuts that will hurt our ability to invest in things that help grow our economy, like schools, transportation,

and safe communities.

- What Kansas needs to attract and grow businesses is a well-educated and healthy workforce, safe roads and bridges, and a good quality of life, and tax cuts will harm the state's ability to provide all of those.

3. The governor's plan is FISCALLY IRRESPONSIBLE.

- The plan will cost the state \$90 million next year. The cost will be even greater the following year. Even with the sales tax increase, the state will lose much-needed revenue.

- This will make it impossible for Kansas to make sound investments in its economic future. It would prevent the state from making job-creating investments in education, transportation, and safe communities.

- The governor says he will use federal dollars to take care of needy seniors, children, and people with disabilities, but attempting to shift the burden of taking care of Kansas' own to the federal government is not only irresponsible, but unrealistic.

The governor's plan will hurt average Kansans and slow our economic recovery. Our state deserves better. 3

### ITEP on Kansas Tax Proposal

The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy has issued a policy brief analyzing the tax proposal put forth by Kansas Governor Brownback.

Sweeping changes to reduce the state's reliance on its progressive personal income tax are at the core of the proposal. The plan would enact a roughly revenue neutral "tax swap" by cutting income tax rates, eliminating a variety of income tax deductions and credits, and making permanent a

temporary sales tax rate hike. An ITEP analysis of the plan finds that the bottom 80 percent of the state's income distribution would collectively see a tax hike under the Brownback plan, while the best-off 20 percent of Kansans would see substantial tax cuts. For most middle- and low-income Kansans, the tax break from the income tax rate cuts would be completely offset by the loss of income tax credits and itemized deductions, as well as a higher sales tax rate.

Governor Brownback's tax reform proposal would actually make the Kansas tax structure more unfair and ensure that low- and middle-income families pay more, while dramatically decreasing taxes owed by the wealthiest Kansans.

Below is a chart based on analysis of the governor's proposed changes in income and sales taxes by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. The full chart and the institute's policy brief can be found at the organization's web site, [www.itepnet.org](http://www.itepnet.org). 3

Income	Tax Change
under \$20,000	+\$209
\$20-35,000	+\$246
\$35-57,000	+\$146
\$57-90,000	+\$14
\$90-165,000	-\$244
\$165-400,000	-\$2,054
over 400,000	-\$16,993

## Program Planning for LWVUS 2012 – 2014

Every two years state and local Leagues participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues—this is how we remain a grassroots organization.

Program, a three-part process that is a core component of the League's mission, is composed of program planning, study and consensus, and advocacy. While it is important for every League to hold a Program Planning meeting to discuss possible issues for study at the national level, it is not essential for every League to select an issue.

The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study. It gives members and Leagues the opportunity to balance the pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the viability of issues. During the process, members have the opportunity - especially with email and discussion lists - to organize support based on factual materials before the Program Planning deadline, March 1, 2012.

Waiting to gather support for issues at national Convention in Washington, DC in June 2012 often results in limited discussion and incomplete information. Furthermore, raising issues at Convention instead of through the Program Planning process dilutes the voices of Leagues that do participate in the process.

This year, the LWVUS board is also asking Leagues to identify what LWVUS positions, if any, local or state League has used in your work in the community.

More information and program planning forms will be available in soon. The link to the Program Planning Leaders Guide was in the November 10th Leaders Update. Here is a direct link: [http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Program\\_Planning](http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Program_Planning) November 2011 – LWVUS Program Planning Leader's Guide is sent out

and posted on the website, and response form and discussion list are available online.

■ January -- February 2012 – Local Leagues provide opportunities for members to participate in LWVUS Program Planning and discuss the program ideas for local study.

■ March 1, 2012 -- Deadline for receipt of online response forms to LWVUS.

■ March 2012 -- LWVUS Board Meeting – LWVUS Program Planning Committee analyzes response form responses and drafts proposal for LWVUS board review.

■ March 2012 -- LWVUS board considers draft and approves an LWVUS Proposed Program for 2012-2014. Local LWV Board recommends local study item to be voted on at Local League annual meeting. (State study items are chosen in alternate years.)

■ April-May 2012 --- Proposed program will be posted on the LWVUS website.

■ June 8-12, 2012 — Washington Hilton: LWVUS Convention delegates adopt 2012-2014 LWVUS program after debate and discussion on the board recommended study, as well as any not-recommended items granted consideration by convention.

■ July 2012-June 2014 — LWVUS implements adopted program. 3

### New LWVK Office

The League has a "shiny" new professional-looking office, with a large conference room!

Our landlord told us a new tenant wanted the whole space at 618 S. Kansas Ave. He offered other offices to us and to help us move. A committee, our treasurer Leonore Rowe (and Ed), Maryanna Quilty (VP), Liz Post (VP), and our administrative assistant, Rachel Fuller, checked out the two spaces he offered, choosing one on Kansas Ave. only a block from the old office. They then arranged for moving immediately. This committee did a

magnificent job of boxing and getting things moved into the new and better office. We are now happily ensconced there. The phone number will stay the same. We are now at:

515 S. Kansas Ave., Suite C  
Topeka, KS 66603

**Our mailing address for all money (checks) is still our PO Box 2366 – ZIP for the box is 66601. 3**

## Issues Forum Jan. 31

A political issues forum will be held on January 31, 2012, consisting of a panel of one faculty member from the University of Kansas, four legislators, and a journalist. It is scheduled for 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library Marvin Auditorium.

The panel on "Key Issues for the 2012 Legislative Session" will cover some or all of the following subjects:

- Redistricting in Kansas
- 2012 Election
- Social Services Issues
- Arts Funding
- Education

Panelists will include:

- Senator Steve Morris, Senate President;
- Representative Brenda Landwehr, chair of the House Health and Human Services Committee;
- Senator Laura Kelly;
- Representative Paul Davis;
- Journalist Martin Hawver, Statehouse reporter and an expert on re-districting from KU.

KU Professor Mike Lynch will moderate.

The event is co-sponsored by the University of Kansas College of Liberal Arts, the League of Women Voters of Kansas, Shawnee County Legislative Delegation, Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, Douglas County Senior Center, and WIBW TV. It is free and open to the public.

We are looking forward to this event and hope for a big turnout 3

## Helping Kansans Register and Vote

### New Bill from Kobach

Secretary of State Kobach has introduced a bill to move up the requirement to show a birth certificate to register to vote. He hopes the legislature will allow him to implement this in June, 2012—to impact the Kansas primaries and the November presidential election. Implementation of this law, whether it happens January 1, 2013 or in June, 2012, will likely end the 92-year history of the League in Kansas registering people to vote—and the LWVUS thinks the League’s tradition of registration drives nationwide is exactly the target of all these laws popping up across the nation. *Voter fraud* could be where Kobach isn’t looking. 3

### Get your city registered to Vote—with Photo IDs

Emporia League demonstrated a way to get elderly registered voters to vote by taking a “Voter Van” to senior living centers instead of having seniors come to the local election office. They had great cooperation with their election office.

This election is going to be a little more complicated, in that voters must show an official Kansas-issued ID. (People over 65 can use an expired Drivers License.) Photo IDs can be obtained at the DMV either as a drivers license or a non-driving photo ID. I hope that Leagues will figure our creative ways to assist citizens in getting the required photo ID.

Sadly, while the law says that the photo ID is free for voting, the birth certificate that must be shown to GET the drivers license or photo ID is NOT free. And it is time-consuming as well as costing \$15 to send for it. What is more, the Department of Vital Statistics requires proof of ID, the most common on their list is – you guessed it – an official photo ID. If someone has a credit card they can order online, but the price jumps considerably for Kansas to at least \$46. 3

### Vote411.org the online Voters Guide for Kansas

The Board of LWVK has decided to use our state education fund money to pay for the statewide coverage of the online Voters Guide, Vote411.org. Every area that has a League will be covered by this, and the local Leagues will just have to type in the candidates and questions for each’s area, but at no cost. The League has been offered the services of an international intern from Friends of the Americas whose skills will be utilized to input data for candidates from the rest of the state. (LWVK Board member Linda N. Johnson of Leavenworth has offered to house him/her and let the intern use her home office computer for the data input part of the project.)

This is a good way to get the League name out in all of Kansas. Many people may remember using a paper Voters Guide to obtain trustworthy information in the past, and in some Leagues still. Kansas Leagues have registered voters and fought since 1920 to improve U.S. systems of government and impact public policies through education and advocacy.

An important component of Vote411.org is the polling place locator; users can type in their address and retrieve the poll location for their voting precinct. The League has found this is among the most sought-after information in the days leading up to, and on, Election Day.

Launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) five years ago, Vote411.org is a “one-stop shop” for election-related information. It provides nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information on the following aspects of the election process:

- T Absentee ballots
- T Ballot measures
- T Early voting options
- T Election dates
- T Factual data on candidates in federal, state, and local races

- T General information on such topics as how to watch debates with a critical eye
- T ID requirements
- T Polling place locations
- T Registration deadlines
- T Voter qualifications
- T Voter registration forms
- T Voting machines 3

### Election Day Problems?

Call one of these hotlines

**1-866-MYVOTE1 (866-698-8831)**

**1-866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)**

**1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (en espanol)**

## Fracking in Kansas

The Sierra Club says fracking (fracturing rock with a mix of water, sand, and chemicals to release trapped oil and natural gas) is coming to Kansas big-time. Governor Brownback is welcoming large oil and gas developers from Oklahoma to come to Kansas and spend several billion dollars on horizontal fracking. Kansas has over 57,000 vertical fracking wells already. It takes up to 160 tanker trucks to bring water to the well site for horizontal fracking in one gas well, and 40-60 percent of the water used will come back to the surface with the gas or oil. This highly polluted water is hauled away to deep injection wells or surface holding ponds. It is the injection wells that are suspected of triggering earthquakes in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Ohio. By federal law in the 2005 Energy Act, the chemicals used in fracking are exempt from the clean water and safe drinking water acts. 3

**League of Women Voters of Kansas**

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The *Kansas Voter* is published by the League of Women Voters of Kansas, a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. LWVK is affiliated with the League of Women Voters of the United States and with local Leagues in Kansas communities.

President Ernestine Krehbiel  
Editor Linda R. Johnson  
[www.lwvk.org](http://www.lwvk.org)



KANSAS  
LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS

**REGISTER NOW FOR DAY AT THE CAPITAL**

Registration Due by February 12, 2012

The cost of League Day at the Capital is **\$25.00** per person and includes continental breakfast, snack, lunch, and program.

**Please tear off this portion, make your check payable to LWVK, and mail both to:  
LWVK, PO Box 2366, Topeka, Kansas 66601**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of paid reservations for February 15 League Day at the Capital \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Legislator guest(s) confirmed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_