

Bulletin of the League of Women Voters of Lawrence–Douglas County, Kansas PO Box 1072 • Lawrence KS 66044-1072

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influencing public policy through education and advocacy.

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League Calendar

Sat Apr 18	LWV L-DC Land Use Committee meeting.
7 pm	Lawrence Community Mercantile, 901 Iowa St. All League members are invited to attend.
Sat Apr 25	71st Biennial Convention of the League of Women Voters of Kansas.
8:30 am-5 pm	Holiday Inn and Convention Center, 200 McDonald Dr. All League members are encouraged to attend. [See
	announcement on p. 5.]
Wed May 13	Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition meeting.
7 pm	Basement conference room of the Carnegie Bldg, 200 West 9th St.
Thurs May 14	LWV L-DC Board meeting.
7 pm	Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St. All League members are invited to attend.
Fri May 15	Deadline for submissions to May issue of <i>The VOTER</i> .
9 pm	Email submissions to VoterEditor[at]lawrenceleague.com.
Thurs May 21	Brown Bag Lunch Meeting: Jails and Mental Health, with speaker Craig Weinaug.
11:30 am-1 pm	Carnegie Building, 200 West 9th St. All are welcome. [See announcement on p. 3.]

Message from Outgoing President Cille King

Last June the Board conducted a retreat and set out rather ambitious goals for the year, as listed below. We made good progress on several goals. Some goals must be left as a legacy for the next Board. Here is a brief recap of our goals and our progress.

ONE-YEAR ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS. A. Hosting Kansas League Biennial Convention in April 2015. Committee Chairperson Debra Duncan, and members Marjorie Cole, Midge Grinstead, and Melissa Wick. It's been over a decade since Lawrence has hosted the state convention. It's an honor that requires planning and execution. Our goal is to have at least 40 Lawrence League members attend. B. Voter registration and voter information are most important in an election year. We held over 50 registration events, registered over 800 voters, gave information on VOTE411.org, participated in Voter Education Coalition forums and held our own "Potluck with the Candidates." We posted candidate questionnaires on our website for the local spring elections. C. Retaining/increasing members, particularly younger members. We have gained several new members this past year,



thanks in part to our new lower dues schedule. But we have also lost some of our life members (50 year members) and other members have left our organization. We are the third largest league in Kansas, but we still need to get more people involved. D. Help get suspended voters fully qualified. We have a committee to contact suspended voters (those needing to submit their "proof of citizenship"—birth certificate, passport or other document). We made hundreds of telephone calls, sent emails, and made house calls, but our efforts met with limited success. We expect to continue as we get closer to the 2016 elections. E. Fundraising. We successfully raised funds to cover the cost of the

fall candidate potluck. The December letter fund raising request again brought in enough to cover expenses for *The VOTER*, Brown Bags, Afternoon with the Legislators, and Annual Meeting. Members usually donate refreshments, but, with increasing frequency, we have to cover the cost of venue rental for all these activities. **F. Share views and outcomes in Voter Education materials.** This is still a goal for the 2016 election season.

TWO YEAR POLICY DEVELOPMENT OR ACTION GOALS. A. Appoint a publicity chair or committee to centralize our outreach. Otherwise, each person needing to publicize an event often must learn "on the job." No one was found to be serve in this capacity. B. Compile a brief survey of members' skills and interest. Better records are kept of interests noted on membership forms. C. Have evening and weekend events as well as the brown bags. In addition to our annual "Afternoon with Legislators," we added the evening candidate potluck and "Police Town Hall." D. Increase our on-line presence via Facebook, twitter, instagram. We have not yet increased our on-line presence. E. Promote the on-line voter registration site for Douglas County, especially when it comes to young, first time registrants. We still use paper voter registration forms. F. Find sponsors for programming to offset costs. A few events have been partially supported this year. G. Increase observer corps, a great activity for newer members. We still need to have a more robust group observing and reporting on public meetings.

Noting our previous year's goals. A. We need to add active members to our long-standing Land Use Committee. **B.** We have had representatives on the Pedestrian Coalition. Our League was a co-founder with the Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods.

Thank you to outgoing board members: Caleb, who has been an outstanding Secretary and has shared his extensive LWV institutional knowledge. James, for his understanding of LWVK and his interest in being a part of many Lawrence boards and committees. Caroljean, for her irrepressible character and work towards equality and fairness in all areas. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Thanks to all board members who made 2014–2015 a successful year: Debra, chair of the 2015 LWV Kansas Convention and your new President; Marjorie, for tracking membership and money; Margaret for new membership, programs, and editing skills; Carol, for voter registration and outreach; Midge, for legislative information and fund raising; Marlene, who lead our league in the state "Fracking" study and Stucky award committee chair; Austin, for asking the questions; and Melissa, for voter registration, brown bag assistance, and much more.

It takes many people to have an active league. All members are welcome and encouraged to have a role. We would like to have more members to handle publicity, reservations, hospitality, calling members, facilitators for small group studies, and printing—programs, voter registration materials, Legislative E-Reports for members without email, fundraising letters, and requests for nominations. Let a board member know if you are willing to help. Thank you for the opportunity to be your President.

Welcome New Members! Please welcome Julie Denning, Gayle Matchett, Nick Budd, Ursula Minor, and Susanna Houston. More information about some of their individual interests will appear in future issues of *The VOTER*.

—Margaret Arnold

Voter Education Coalition Report

The Voter Education Coalition (VEC) held its last meeting of the election season on April 2. Another meeting is not expected until April or May of 2016—gearing up for the fall 2016 election cycle.

The committee discussed recent candidate forums for City Commission and School Board and the election season in general. Things well done were social media for candidates, the inclusive website—listing print media, audio media and audio/visual media on the candidates from many sources—, and the participation of new community partners.

Things to improve were earlier scheduling of events to get appropriate accommodations, and the need to hold four events, regardless of a primary, extend events to an hour and half, get more co-sponsors for events, and ask more challenging questions.

We thank Patrick Wilber and Scott Criqui for their excellent efforts as co-presidents of the VEC and we anticipate a lively 2016 election season.

—Cille King

Don't forget! Brown Bag Lunch Meeting—Jails and Mental Health

Thursday, May 21, 11:30 am, Watkins Community Museum, Ground Floor Mtg Rm, 1047 Massachusetts St County Administrator Craig Weinaug has long recognized the need for mental health care apart from residence in the Douglas County Jail. He, commissioners, and interested community members have initiated a city-wide dialogue about community mental health care. Please plan to attend to hear him and also add your questions and comments about ways to meet such needs as overcrowding the jail or adding alternative facilities for psychological help. After an informal discussion from 11:30 to 12, Weinaug's presentation begins at noon. All are welcome, so please bring guests.

Lawrence Pedestrian Coalition

The "Safe Routes for All Town Hall," held at Liberty Hall on March 25, was very successful. More than two hundred people attended the event, which was arranged by the Coalition in partnership with the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. It was sponsored by many local organizations and businesses.

The main speaker was Robert Ping from the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute in Portland, Oregon. There was a panel discussion among representatives from Topeka, Manhattan, Columbia, Missouri, and Lincoln, Nebraska. All of the Lawrence City Commissioners and Commission candidates attended and spoke for a few minutes. After that, there were questions and comments from the audience.

The Lawrence City Commission has created a Pedestrian-Bicycle Issues Task Force. It will be comprised of 11 citizens who have an interest in this subject. Applications are now being taken.

The Coalition held a meeting on April 8. It was decided that the organization should continue in existence after the task force is formed so it could express an independent voice. There was dis-

cussion of its goals. Three were suggested:

- 1. Promote wellness in the community.
- 2. Promote pedestrian-friendly infrastructure.
- 3. Promote awareness of pedestrian access and safety, especially for our most vulnerable citizens, such as the elderly and children.

This subject will be discussed further at the next meeting. —Alan Black

Report on Annual Meeting

The League of Women Voters of Lawrence—Douglas County held its Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 11, at the Holcom Recreation Center. Twenty-four members and one guest partook in refreshments and conversation before the meeting started.

Debra Duncan discussed the upcoming LWV Kansas Biennial Convention, to be held on April 25, in Lawrence. She noted the historical theme, looking back to Kansas' progressive roots as LWV celebrates our 95th year. Teeshirts with an image of suffragettes can be ordered, a panel of the KU's February Sisters will present the keynote and Joan Stone will perform an interpretative dance to honor Annie Diggs during the lunch hour. Then the convention will look at the current and future with a presentation by Duane Goossen, who served as State Budget Director under three governors. LWVK will hold elections for state officers and board members, vote on a proposed position on "Fracking," and adopt studies for the next two years. Registration forms are on our website. Fees can be paid by credit card.

David Burress gave an update on our LWV L–DC's two-year study of Local Economic Development. He noted the difference between "Economic Development" which brings money into the community, and "Community Development," which neighborhoods want but costs money. David stressed that these terms are not understood and often mistakenly interchanged. Then there is development that does not bring wealth and that neighborhoods do not want. He noted that incentives or tax abatements for retail and apartments provide neither economic nor community development—they only take money from existing business or housing, and at the expense of the tax-payers. There will be at least one brown bag on this study and perhaps some "unit" meetings before this position is ready for consensus at our 2016 Annual Meeting.

Kansas Senator marci francisco and LWV L-DC Board Member Midge Grinstead gave an informative presenta-

tion on the legislative practice of "Gut and Go." This has been policy for many years, but has never been used to such an extent on major legislation. During the current session, committee chairpersons have taken bills that have already passed one chamber of the Legislature, replaced the text with new language, and returned them to the other chamber for a simple yes or no vote. The tactic effectively suppresses debate on the bills, and prevents legislators from adding amendments. Legislation funding K-12 education with block grants was adopted in this way; the Kansas budget could be adopted in this way. This means that no discussion or amendments would made on these major items.



Your newly elected LWV L–DC Officers and Board of Directors (left to right) are: Marjorie Cole (Treas), Marlene Merrill, Carol Klinknett, Melissa Wick, Midge Grinstead, Cille King (Vice Pres), Debra Duncan (Pres), Janice Friedman, marci francisco, and Austin Turney. Not pictured: Margaret Arnold, Jeanne Mann (Secr).

In our business meeting, we adopted a budget for 2015–16, and elected officers and board members, all with the usual prescriptive Roberts Rules of Order precision.

—Cille King

In Memoriam

Mary Miller, who joined the League in 1956, died April 8. She was an especially active member, serving as President of the Lawrence League and Secretary for the League of Women Voters of Kansas, and participating in many League activities, particularly working for equal rights for all people, the democratic process and getting out the vote—not only in Kansas, but also in Paraguay.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, June 13, at the Ecumenical Campus Ministries Building, 1204 Oread Ave, in Lawrence. Memorials in Mary's name may be made to the League of Women Voters of Lawrence and the Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence.

Report on March Brown Bag



The secrecy and funding of KU's Center for Applied Economics (a public policy think-tank,) was the topic of "The Influence of Private Corporate Financial Contributions on Public Education," the March 19 Brown Bag luncheon at the Lawrence Community Historical Museum. Schuyler Kraus, president of Students for a Sustainable Future, and Thomas Sidlinger, president of KU's Environmental Law Society, spoke about their concerns of the influence of corporate contributions from Charles and David Koch, who provided \$1.4 million to KU's School of Business, which established the Center.

This concern came to light for many when Kraus wrote a "Your Turn" article for the Lawrence *Journal-World*'s opinion page last September. She wrote about how the Koch brothers have influenced public policy and how they are now reaching into higher education. She cited Florida State University and Clemson University, both of which signed controversial contracts in exchange for Koch money. The founding executive director of the Center at KU is Art Hall who for seven years was chief economist of Koch Industries' lobbying subsidiary, Companies Public Sector. He receives "a generous supplemental salary," in addition to the \$158,000 a year from the state.

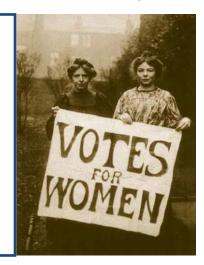
Kraus and Sidlinger gave a brief history of the many reaching arms of the world's richest family, referring to the Koch businesses as "Kochtopus." They talked about the Koch philosophy of accusing the education system in the U.S. of pushing anti-capitalism, sparking their need to give money to more than 400 educational institutions. Attorney David Brown was at the meeting to answer questions regarding the status of the records request by the Students for a Sustainable Future. Under the Kansas Open Records Act, they asked KU for copies of contracts and correspondence explaining the restrictions on Koch funding, and on Art Hall's employment. The court has put a restraining order on the request so there is nothing happening at this time.

- Ann Carlin Ozegovic

Don't forget! Saturday, April 25, the Kansas League of Women Voters 2015 State Convention

Lawrence Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center

Featuring! Introductory remarks from KU Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little • Keynote Panel with KU's February Sisters • Duane Goossen speaking on the Kansas Budget • and Annie Diggs: a Voice for Working People, a performance by Joan Stone, dance historian. Registration for the event is \$65; for an additional \$2.50 we can take credit cards (VISA, MasterCard, and Discover). Hurry! Registration deadline is April 17. For more information, including how you can purchase a one-of-a-kind tee-shirt featuring Annie Kenney and Christabel Pankhurst (right), and registration forms, visit the LWVK website at http://lwvk.org/calendar.html.



Land Use Committee Report

March 21, 7 pm, Lawrence Community Mercantile, 901 Iowa St.

At the March Land Use Committee (LUC) meeting, we discussed the Planning Commission (PC) agenda that was scheduled for Monday, March 23, and what action, if any, to take. We decided to send one letter. Cille King represented the League at the PC meeting.

The one letter that LUC sent was on Agenda Item No.4: CS-UC (Strip Commercial/ Urban Conservation Overlay) to CS-UC 0.27 acres; 804 Pennsylvania St. This general area is only one of two commercial/mixed use areas designated as Urban Conservation Overlay Districts. These overlay districts are designed for a combination of uses with specific conditions applied to preserve the

special features of the areas. The other Commercial/UC District is in the Central Business District. This Pennsylvania St area is the special restored historical factory area that now is a combination of apartments/art studi-

os/commercial/light industrial uses, a mixed use district allowed under the Urban Conservation Overlay District designation. In taking this to the PC, the

requested change was to remove the special conditions that required the proportion of food to liquor sales and 24-hour reporting required under the conditions of the zoning. Originally, the conditions required that food receipts be 55% of the total daily income receipts recorded on a 24-hour basis. The owners asked the PC to change the Overlay UC to no longer require the 55% food sales and proof based on these daily income receipts, but rather, to allow that the "restaurant" be a bar without the percentage food requirement and income receipts. The argument not to change the little restaurant was that it is needed by the people who live and work there in order to avoid having to drive to some other area to eat. The problem for the owners of the development is that the building is not large enough to include a kitchen, and requires that the prepared food be supplied by outside deliveries from different sources. Based on their experience, the problem for the owners is that the 24-hour income reporting is too difficult with multiple food suppliers.

The staff recommendation was to give the PC the choice of continuing the original requirements of providing the food on a 55/45% food/alcoholic beverages or convert to a bar under a Special Use Permit

with conditions. The reaction of the residents was hard to tell from the letters, but seemed to support continuing to supply food with the liquor. The actual outcome was also hard to decipher, but according to Cille, the owners intended to continue supplying food with their alcoholic beverages, but preferred that they not have to report their food sale receipts on a 24-hour basis. OUT-COME: the choice of the PC was to allow the "bar" to continue with a Special Use Permit, but the general consensus seemed to be that the conditions required would also include food sales, although not the rigid 55/45% food/alcohol provision, and not require 24-

hour reporting.

Other items were all approved with varying considerations. Item No. 2 was a Final Development Plan, Phase II, for Hutton Farms, a Planned Development that went to the PC mainly for approval. It was a single family and duplex development located on the north side of Peterson Rd west of Kasold. When this project was originally approved, the developer

requested that the minimum 10-foot distance between buildings be reduced to five feet. We objected, but the PC approved it. However, the proposed change apparently didn't pass the Building Dept regulations and now the distance between the homes is the required minimum of 10 feet. Item No. 3: was a Special Use Permit (SUP) at 1010 E. 11th Street for a recycling and salvaging center named the 12 & Haskell Recycle Center that was expanding. The actual location is in the middle of an industrial area located between two railroad tracks at the very end of North Haskell Ave. It has no public street frontage and didn't require the strict screening otherwise required. However, it will be in the 100-year floodplain when the 100-year levels are revised this fall, and anything below the projected flood level will need to be raised, including any outside stored materials. This is the use formerly about a block south of there that was non-conforming and was moved to this new location. **Item No. 5** was a real puzzle. The County wanted to clarify the definition of Agricultural Use and what constitutes a "Value Added Agricultural Use" that requires a Conditional Use Permit. We will have to investigate this further, because we couldn't decipher —Betty Lichtwardt what was decided.

Highlights of the March LWV L-DC Board Meeting

March 12, 7:11-8:47 pm, Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St, lower level, mtg rm B

Present: Cille King (Pres), Debra Duncan (Pres Elect), Marjorie Cole (Treas), Caleb Morse (Secr). Directors: Margaret Arnold, James Dunn, Carol Klinknett, Marlene Merrill, Austin Turney, Melissa Wick. Absent: Caroljean Brune, Midge Grinstead. Guest: Sue Kapaun. Adoption of the agenda. The agenda was adopted as distributed previous to the meeting, with minor changes. **Consent agenda.** Melissa (Carol) move to adopt the consent agenda (including minutes from the February Board meeting, Treasurer's report, and dashboard) with the following correction to the minutes: Alan will being staying on LWVK board, wants additional members to serve; there was not discussion and the motion was carried unanimously. Treasurer's report. Marjorie reported that the total income for February was \$300 (in dues and contributions). Expenses were \$848.93 (for ½ of

the LWV US PMP [\$375.88], ½ of the LWVK PMP [\$216], for printing *The VOTER* [\$54.35], and postage and supplies [\$202.70]). Net outflow was \$548.93. Current balances as of Jan 31: Checking Acct = \$4374.31 (after deducting 2 uncleared checks); Money Market Acct = \$2,104.28; Stucky Acct = \$4,629.63; Judiciary Acct = \$381.63; Education Fund (LWVEF) = \$350.59.

PMPs for the 2014–2015 year have been paid, ½ from our checking account and ½ requested from our Education Account. (The bill for the 4th Q US PMP doesn't come until April.) **Open Meetings Report Fallout.** Cille reported on a conversation she had with Douglas County Commissioner Nancy Thellman about Alan Cowles's the Open Meetings report. Thellman mentioned having very serious concerns about suggestions of KOMA violations in the report. She says the Commissioners had discussed the issue with their attorney and were assured that they are abiding by the law. Carol agreed that the report appears to make unsubstantiated allegations. There was some

further discussion of KOMA and what is required. James asked Cille what Thellman wants us to do. Cille thought remove it from our website, but she will ask Alan how he obtained his figures. Debra (Melissa) moved we table the issue until Alan has had a chance to provide sufficient documentation; Cille will ask Alan to provide these data. Motion carries. Canvass report for March 3 primary. Cille and Carol attended the canvass. Cille reviewed fate of the provisional ballots: 1 person try to vote using power of attorney; was denied. There were 8680 ballots passed through a scanner, 128 provisionals, and 55 hand counted. Of the provisionals, 111 were recommended to be counted; 15 were recommended not to be counted, 2 were "no recommendation." Coalitioning with NAACP. Carol Klinknett raised the issue of forming a coalition with NAACP. Caleb (Marlene) moved to

make Carol our representative to NAACP on League matters; carried unanimously. LWVK State Convention Committee Report. Debra reports that the committee has arranged for food, but the cost is much higher than anticipated. Also, everything costs extra, like stages, sound systems. Bernadette Gray-Little will offer the welcome; several members of the February Sis-

ters will present the keynote address; Duane Goossen will give a legislative overview in the afternoon. The committee will need help with registration and name tags, centerpieces, gift bags. Scholarship Committee Report. Marlene reported that she, Ann Carlin Ozegevic and Tamara Cash are the committee. The will read applications and decide on a winner by Apr 6. Membership and Leader Development Committee Report. The MLD committee (Cille, Margaret, Marjorie, Debra) spoke to MLD liaison Ellen Miller on Mar 12. Ellen's term ends in April. Other items. There was a brief discussion about reviving our Observer Corps.

—Caleb Morse



Lawrence Municipal Court. What is it?

Where. The Lawrence municipal court (LMC) is located in a small, modern building at 1006 New Hampshire St.

Who. A full time Municipal Judge is appointed by the City Manager and presides over all court proceedings. If the judge is absent, a Judge Pro Tem, one of several local attorneys who are available, is appointed to preside at trials and other proceedings as needed.

Jurisdiction. A municipal court can hear only cases involving alleged violations of municipal ordinances legally enacted by the governing body of the city. The alleged violations must occur within the city limits.

Procedures. Trials of cases in which the defendant has pleaded not guilty are held on Thursdays in the court room beginning at 9 am and continuing throughout the day. There is no set docket of trials because of various circumstances and changes in cases that can occur up to the trial date.

The procedures for the trials are the same as in any criminal court, except there is no jury. The Judge hears the arguments from both the prosecution and defense, rules on the admissibility of evidence and renders his decision orally at the conclusion of the arguments.

Defendants often represent themselves at trial because of the expense or because the offense is so minor an attorney is unnecessary. Attorneys will only be appointed for a jailable offense. Depending on the offense, first-time offenders may be able to enter into a diversion agreement with the City Prosecutor.

Samples of Cases Observed.

- 1. A young man, new to Lawrence, was cited by a Parking Ordinances Officer for backing his vehicle into a city parking lot space. The defendant represented himself and was occasionally guided by the Judge Pro Tem on how to follow the appropriate procedures. The Judge Pro Tem found the defendant guilty and assessed a \$55 fine. The young man said he was unemployed, his only income was disability payments so he could not pay the fine. The Judge Pro Tem agreed to waive the fine and imposed a sentence of 8 hours of community service.
- 2. A woman charged with operating under the influence pleaded guilty. She had failed a field sobriety test. She had been cited for the same offense prior to this one and was granted diversion. The guilty plea in this second case meant that the diversion will be set aside and she will be sentenced in August.

This was accepted by both the prosecution and the defendant. Both times I attended court, the Judge and Judge Pro Tem asked if I had any questions. They were very helpful and seemed genuinely pleased that a citizen had taken the time to find out how our municipal court system works.

For more information see:

City of Lawrence, City Attorney—Understanding Municipal Court: https://www.lawrenceks.org/attorney/understanding municipal court Municipal Court Clerks' Manual:

http://www.kscourts.org/kansas-courts/municipal-courts/municipal-clerks-manual-2010.pdf.

—Dan Dannenberg





Make a Difference - Join/Support the League!

Complete form, enclose check made out to LWV L-DC, and mail to the address listed below. (Membership is open to anyone who will be eligible to vote in the next November election. New or renewed memberships received now will expire March 31, 2015) ____ Renewing member New Member. I heard about the League via (Facebook, Web Site, Friend, Other): Suggested voluntary membership assessment:* Approximate Household Income Individual membership Household membership Student** \$17 _____ \$20 Under \$25,000 _____ \$35 ____ \$55 \$25,000 to \$50,000 Over \$50,000 Sustaining member \$100 Life member (of 50 years) * Our membership assessment supports the National and State Leagues at \$49/member (\$31 National and \$18 State). ** High school or postsecondary student enrolled at least part time in an accredited institution. I am not a member, but would like to support the League with my contribution as indicated below. I have enclosed a contribution of \$ ______ for the League General Fund. I have enclosed a contribution of \$ for the League Education Fund*** *** This contribution is tax-deductible. Write check to "LWV Education Fund." **PLEASE PRINT** Telephone ______ Email ____ As a League member or supporter, I would like to help support League activities by participating as follows: Promotion of League to our Community: General Membership Meetings: ___ Public speaking ____ Set up and/or tear down Hospitality (provide coffee/tea/dessert) Represent League at community events Taking notes/writing up report of meeting Observer corps (attend/report on government meetings) Membership: ___ Help with research for League studies on issues ____ Recruitment Serve on the Board of Directors Mentor/follow-up with new members I have the following skills: Provide a ride to a fellow member ____ Editing articles/reports ___ Database management Phone members without internet access about ___ Microsoft Word / Excel / Quickbooks special updates Website/Social Media design/management **Voter Services:** Register voters My interests include: ___ Help with voter education



League of Women Voters Lawrence-Douglas County PO Box 1072 Lawrence KS 66044-1072

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