

## **Information Sheet**

**R**      **League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri**  
**938**      **Records, 1952-2004.**  
            **Fifteen volumes, forty-four folders.**

### **MICROFILM**

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri](http://The State Historical Society of Missouri). If you would like more information, please contact us at [shsresearch@umsystem.edu](mailto:shsresearch@umsystem.edu).

These are minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors, newsletters, and project and topical files of the League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri. Organized in 1952 as the League of Women Voters of Springfield, Missouri, the organization has been especially active in voter registration, home rule and county charter government propositions, education, planning and zoning, and other civic, social, and environmental issues.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to the study of political issues. It grew out of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1920. A League group existed in Springfield for a short time in the 1930s, but the modern history of the local chapter began on 5 May 1952, when 116 members provisionally organized the League of Women Voters of Springfield, Missouri. Mrs. Clay Payne presided over the meeting in the Greene County Courthouse. At the next meeting on 19 May 1952, Mona Weiser became the group's first president. The group received active status from the State League in May 1953. About October 1973, the name of the organization was changed at the suggestion of the state board to league of Women Voters of Springfield-Greene County. It was changed again in April 2004 to the League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri.

Voter information and educating the public have been the most important efforts of the League. In Springfield, activities by the League have included voter registration drives, candidates' forums, radio and television advertising and programs, and publication of voter's guides and other informational materials. The League helped defend the city charter in two recall elections in the 1960s; five League members were elected to the City Council in the 1960s and 1970s. The League was instrumental in getting a county Home Rule proposal placed on the ballot in 1967. It was defeated, but the League led successful efforts to appoint a Home Rule Charter Commission in 1979. League members have attended and observed the workings of many city, county, and local government boards, and have been perennial appointees to many of them.

League members also have studied a wide variety of themes and topics as established by the state and national Leagues or generated by local chapters. Following League practice, subgroups study the topics and draw conclusions, which are assembled by the Board of Directors. The Board assembles the various conclusions and formulates policy. If consensus exists, a plan for action is generated and implemented, with the Board serving as executive committee and coordinating agent. In Springfield, the League has studied schools, parks, sewers, solid waste, planning and zoning, transportation, and water resources.

The records of the Springfield organization consist of minutes of meetings of the board of directors, the organization's newsletters, and administrative and project files. Volumes 1-7 consist of the minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors, the basic governing body of the

League. The minutes begin with the organizational meeting on 5 March 1952 and continue through 27 April 2004. There are no minutes for the period 21 November 1972 to 15 May 1975.

Volumes 8-15 include newsletters published by the Springfield organization. Originally entitled *Politicorama*, publication began November 1952. The newsletter was renamed *LWV Today* beginning with the issue of August/September 1991. The collection of newsletters is complete through June 2004.

Folders 1-44 contain of a selection of administrative and project files. Folders 1-20 consist of administrative files including by-laws, past and present membership lists, consensus statements, materials on the history of the Springfield organization, and examples of voters guides. Of particular interest are folders 5 (consensus), 6 (history of the organization), and 14 (local positions).

Folders 21-44 illustrate the major concerns of the local League, arranged alphabetically by subject. Individual folders may contain correspondence, notes, newspaper clippings, research reports, and study guides on diverse political, social, and environmental issues such as child care, charter government, home rule, education, law enforcement, parks, planning and zoning, community sustainability, local taxation, and water resources. Issues that have been extensively studied over the years by the League, such as charter government, education, and water resources, are represented by packets containing study materials spanning a number of years. The original organization of the files has been maintained. Many of the files are arranged in reverse chronological order.

The League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri maintains other files at the headquarters in Springfield that have not been microfilmed. The files there include papers and publications generated by the state and national League of Women Voters.

*r1047 22 June 2004 League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri Loaned for microfilming*

### **Shelf List**

These are minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors, newsletters, and project and topical files of the League of Women Voters of Southwest Missouri. Organized in 1952 as the League of Women Voters of Springfield, Missouri, the organization has been especially active in voter registration, home rule and county charter government propositions, education, planning and zoning, and other civic, social, and environmental issues.

#### **Volumes 1-6: Minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors, 1952-2004**

- V. 01: Minutes, 5 March 1952—21 November 1961
- V. 02: Minutes, 23 January 1962—27 November 1967
- V. 03: Minutes, 22 January 1968—21 November 1972
- V. 04: Minutes, 15 May 1975—13 November 1980
- V. 05: Minutes, 8 January 1981—8 December 1988
- V. 06: Minutes, 12 January 1989—12 December 1994
- V. 07: Minutes: 10 January 1995—27 April 2004

#### **Volumes 8-15: Bulletins, 1952-2004**

- V. 08: *Politicorama*, November 1952—November 1964
- V. 09: *Politicorama*, January 1965—December 1971
- V. 10: *Politicorama*, January 1972—December 1974
- V. 11: *Politicorama*, January 1975—December 1978
- V. 12: *Politicorama*, January 1979—December 1985
- V. 13: *Politicorama*, February 1986--April 1991
- V. 14: *LWV Today*, August/September 1991--December 1997
- V. 15: *LWV Today*, January 1998--June 2004

#### **Folders 1-20: Local administration, 1952-2004**

- F. 01: Annual Reports 1957-1979
- F. 02: Budget, 1 Apr 1987-June 2003
- F. 03: By-Laws, May 1976-May 2004
- F. 04: Consensuses & Policies, 1971-1990
- F. 05: Election Training Institute Planning Guide, 1996
- F. 06: Election Training Institute, Participant Notebook, 1998
- F. 07: History
  - Report on the Springfield Organization of League of Women Voters, 1959
  - 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
  - Presidents of the Springfield/Greene County League, 1952-1993
  - History of LWV of Springfield-Greene County, 1987
  - "What Do You Do in the League of Women Voters, Anyhow," 1973-1974
  - Communications and the League, 1982
  - Speeches
- F. 08: Know Your Town/Viewpoint television programs, 1955-1979
- F. 09: Legislative Interviews, 1991
- F. 10: Membership; 1972-2004
- F. 11: Membership Directories Archive, 1967-2003
- F. 12: Membership Archive, 1954-1966
- F. 13: Name Change, 2004
- F. 14: Observers (Greene County and Springfield boards and commissions), 1990-1992
- F. 15: Positions-Local, 1990-2001
- F. 16: Presidents-Local, 1952-2003
- F. 17: Publications LWVSG
- F. 18: Radio, 1994-1998
- F. 19: Voters Guides, 1972-2002
- F. 20: Voter Registration, General, 1962-2002
  - Voter registration, 1962

#### **Folders 21-44: Local programs, 1954-2004**

- F. 21: Aesthetics, 1985-1985
  - Study of landscape and sign ordinances
- F. 22: Air Pollution (Springfield), 1968
  - Open trash burning
- F. 23: Basic Human Needs, 1978-1897
  - Nursing Homes—Statement concerning By-Laws of the Greene County Association of Social Services, 1978
  - Study of the Problems of the Homeless and Hungry in Springfield, 1987
  - Health care for the elderly, 1984, 1989

*The Homeless Mentally Ill in Missouri*, 1988

Studies of local public health, health planning, equal opportunity housing

- F. 24: Child Care, 1960-1989
  - Re-Study of Financing Springfield Children's Home, 1986
  - Springfield Children's Home as a City Agency, 1968
  - Resource materials and local studies, 1978-1979; 1989
  - Children's Home study (R. G. Steed), 1986
- F. 25: City-County Cooperation, 1970-1988
  - Study and consensus, 1970
  - Cooperation between Springfield and Greene County, 1987
  - City and County Cooperation—Libraries, 1962-1988
- F. 26: City Government, 1978-1984
  - Proposed Charter Amendments, 1978
  - Charter of the City of Springfield, 1953
- F. 27: Charter Revision Committee, 1973
  - Members and minutes of meetings
- F. 28: City Utilities
  - Statement on the Proposed Coal-Fired Plant, 2004
- F. 29: Greene County Study, 1963
- F. 30: Charter Government--Home Rule
  - Home Rule petition to city clerk, 1980
  - League Involvement in Home Rule, 1970s-1989
  - Updated materials on Greene County charter government, 1990
- F. 31: County Charter, 1973-1990
- F. 32: County Zoning and Planning
- F. 33: Education
  - Springfield Public Schools, 1990-2004
  - Education Study, 1969-1970
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  - Proposed legislation for electing R-12 board members, 1985-1986
  - Charter school study, 1998
- F. 34: Energy, 1977-1980
- F. 35: Household Hazardous Waste Project, 1986
- F. 36: Immigration (local), 2002
- F. 37: Law enforcement
  - Sales tax proposal, 2004
  - Law Enforcement Study, 1995
  - Law Enforcement Initiative, 1997
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  - County Parks Survey, 1991-1992
  - City-county parks, 1991-2001
  - Springfield Entertainment Park, 1991-1994
- F. 39: Planning and Zoning
  - Citizen's Guide to Proposed Zoning Ordinance, 1982
  - Planning and zoning studies, 1960-1975
  - Springfield Planning and Zoning Commission, agendas, 1999
  - Land disturbance ordinance, 1997
- F. 40: Sewage Treatment and Storm Drainage
  - Southwest Sewage Treatment Plant, 1959
  - History of Springfield Sewers, 1971, 1979
- F. 41: Sustainability

*Sustainability, ca. 2000*

*State of the Environment For Springfield and Greene County, 2002*

F. 42: Taxes (local)

Historical material, 1954-1974

Local revenues, 1962-1974

Local option sales taxes, 1987

F. 43: Transportation

Traffic and Pedestrian Safety, 1966-1975

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F. 44: Water

Watershed Management Coordinating Committee, 1984-1986

Water Source Study, 1989

Background on County Line Dam, 1971-1978

League statement on water resources, 1985

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Children—Institutional care—Missouri—Greene County.

City planning—Missouri—Springfield.

Charter schools—Missouri—Springfield.

Coal-fired power plants—Missouri—Springfield.

County government—Missouri—Greene County.

County charters—Missouri—Greene County.

County Line Dam (Greene County, Mo.).

County planning—Missouri—Greene County.

County services.

Education—Missouri—Springfield.

Emigration and immigration—Missouri—Greene County.

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Greene County (Mo.)—Politics and government.

Hazardous substances—Missouri—Greene County.

Law enforcement—Missouri—Greene County.

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