

"AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy."

AAUW is open to graduates who hold the associate, baccalaureate, or higher degree from a qualified college or university.

Who we are...

The Saint Louis Branch of AAUW supports the broad goals and actions of AAUW by holding public outreach events, engaging in political action, collaborating with local organizations and educational institutions regarding AAUW topics, and by supporting area young women and girls directly. We promote a "You Can Do It" approach. We are one of five branches in the Saint Louis, MO, area that comprise the AAUW Metro Saint Louis Interbranch Council (IBC).

Branch Officers, 2023-2025

Ellen Irons, President
ironnew@msn.com

Carol Davis McDonald, Finance Officer, newsletter, website, Facebook page
davis-mcdonald@outlook.com

Vacant - Director

Vacant - Director

Web Sites:

Branch Web Site:

<http://stlouis-mo.aauw.net>

IBC Web Site:

<http://stlouis-ibc.aauw.net>

State Web Site:

www.aauwmo.org

[AAUW St. Louis Branch | Facebook](#)

National Web Site:

www.aauw.org



St. Louis Branch Fall Event

October 20, 2024 - 12:30-2:30 pm

Potluck at Linda Lindsey's home, 29 Algonquin Wood, Kirkwood 63122

Please plan to come to our Halloween potluck at Linda's. Costumes are optional. We also will be having an informal discussion of the voting issues on the November 5th ballot. (The issues are listed on pages 3-5.)



Please let Linda know what food item you plan to bring (if you can't bring something, that's all right). Her email address is llindsey@wustl.edu or phone 314-961-5379. Her home is (generally) located east off Berry Road, south of Manchester Road and north of I-44. Linda can give more specific directions from your location, if needed.



"Fall has always been my favorite season. The time when everything bursts with its last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale." – Lauren DeStefano

"A person should always choose a costume which is in direct contrast to her own personality." – Lucy, *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*

"Halloween was confusing. All my life my parents said, 'Never take candy from strangers.' And then they dressed me up and said, 'Go beg for it.'" – Rita Rudner

A Word From President Ellen Irons:

(Due to Ellen's hospitalization and treatment, there will be no president's message for a while.)



AAUW St. Louis Branch Calendar - 2024-2025

PROGRAMS AND THINGS TO DO

October

- **Wednesday, October 16**—National webinar, “It’s My Vote
- **Sunday, October 20** – 12:30 – 2:30pm. AAUW St Louis Fall Gathering – Linda Lindsey’s home. With program. Halloween theme. “Voting issues – now until Election Day.”
- **Thursday, October 24**—Adelante book group, 1:30pm via Zoom
- **Monday, October 28** - Movie Club—*Hillbilly Elegy*

November

- **Tuesday, November 5** - **VOTE!!**
- **Tuesday, November 12** – Planning committee meeting via Zoom ,7pm
- **Sunday, November 17** – 11am to 2pm – Cultural Activity - History Museum Branch outing. “Gateway to Pride” Exhibit <https://mohistory.org/exhibits/gateway-to-pride>.
- **Monday, November 25** - Movie Club

December

- **Monday, December 23** - Movie Club

January 2025

- **Sunday, January 26** - AAUW St. Louis Holiday Gathering, 11am at authentic Asian restaurant (TBD)— Lunar New Year. Dim Sum.
- **Monday, January 27** - Movie Club

February 2025

- AAUW St. Louis Cultural Event? TBD
- **Sunday, February 16** – tentative – “Gender Identity – Here and Now.” Linda Lindsey program; room reserved at Mid County Library, 1:30 – 4:00pm (time includes set up and break down).
- **Monday, February 24** - Movie Club

March 2025

- **March 8** - International Women’s Day
- Various events w/The Montessori Adolescent Program School art exhibit for Women’s History Month.
- Various events supporting Girl Scouts of Eastern MO Women’s History Month Patch Program.
- **Monday, March 24** - Movie Club
- **Saturday, March 29** - IBC Spring Luncheon, 11am – 2:00 pm, honoring Heroines and Barbara Lackritz Honorees

April 2025

- 3rd week – Panel on Ageism - need to develop (develop subcommittee, set date, place, speakers etc.)
- **Monday, April 28** - Movie Club

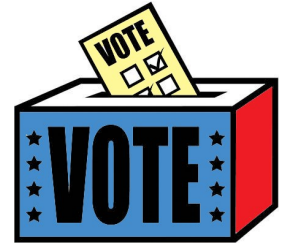
May 2025

- Cultural Event? TBD
- **Monday, May 26** - Movie Club

June 2025

- AAUW St. Louis Annual Meeting – Need date
- **Monday, June 23** - Movie Club

A Note on Public Policy



The League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis has supplied this important information regarding the November election.

FALL BALLOT MEASURES IN A NUTSHELL (see complete ballot language below)

- Amendment 2 – Sports Gambling. Winning for Missouri Education proposes to legalize sports betting online and in person. Revenue would be taxed at 10 percent and targeted to educational institutions.
- Amendment 3 – Reproductive Freedom. Missourians for Constitutional Freedom asks voters to protect reproductive freedom, overturning the state’s current ban and legalizing abortion until fetal viability.
- Amendment 5 – Lake of the Ozark Casino. Asks voters to issue one additional gambling boat license to operate on the portion of the Osage River from the Missouri River to the Bagnell Dam.
- Amendment 6 (SJR 71) – Court Fees. Asks voters to authorize using court fees to generate revenue for salaries and benefits of current and retired county sheriffs and prosecuting attorneys.
- Amendment 7 (SJR 78) – Ranked Choice Voting. Asks voters to block ranked choice voting system and other alternative voting systems, limit voting to only citizens over the age of 18, and only allow paper ballots to be used for elections.
- Proposition A – Minimum Wage and Sick Leave. Asks voters to guarantee that Missouri workers can earn up to seven paid sick days per year and gradually raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour.

AMENDMENT 2 – Legalize Sports Gambling

Do you want to amend the Missouri Constitution to:

- Allow the Missouri Gaming Commission to regulate licensed sports wagering including online sports betting, gambling boats, professional sports betting districts and mobile licenses to sports betting operators;
- Restrict sports betting to individuals physically located in the state and over the age of 21;
- Allow license fees prescribed by the Commission and a 10% wagering tax on revenues and received to be appropriated for education after expenses incurred by the Commission and required funding of the Compulsive Gambling Prevention fund; and
- Allow for the general assembly to enact laws consistent with this amendment?

State governmental entities estimate onetime costs of \$660,000, ongoing annual costs of at least \$5.2 million, and initial license fee revenue of \$11.75 million. Because the proposal allows for deductions against sports gaming revenues, they estimate unknown tax revenue ranging from \$0 to \$28.9 million annually. Local governments estimate unknown revenue.

Pros: Proponents say that 38 other states have legalized sports betting. Legislators say that sports betting could draw increased revenue for the state and particularly for educational programs to which portions of the revenue would be appropriated.

Cons: Opponents say Amendment 2 would increase compulsive gambling with its negative consequences, and that the low tax rate will not generate enough revenue to justify the human costs. They also say the proposition lacks the mechanisms necessary for state agencies to collect and deposit revenue generated.

AMENDMENT 3 – Reproductive Freedom Ballot Language

Do you want to amend the Missouri Constitution to:

- Establish a right to make decisions about reproductive health care, including abortion and contraceptives, with any governmental interference of that right presumed invalid;
- Remove Missouri’s ban on abortion;
- Allow regulation of reproductive health care to improve or maintain the health of the patient;

(continued on next page)

(Ballot Issues continued)

- Require the government not to discriminate, in government programs, funding, and other activities, against persons providing or obtaining reproductive health care; and
- State governmental entities estimate no costs or savings, but unknown impact. Local governmental entities estimate costs of at least \$51,000 annually in reduced tax revenues. Opponents estimate a potentially significant loss to state revenue.

Pros: Proponents say decisions around pregnancy, abortion, contraceptives, and miscarriages are private and should be made by individuals, not the government. They also say Amendment 3 will preserve the health of individuals seeking necessary reproductive health care.

Cons: Opponents support the current strict ban on abortion.

AMENDMENT 5 – Lake of the Ozark Casino

Do you want to amend the Missouri Constitution to:

- Allow the Missouri Gaming Commission to issue one additional gambling boat license to operate on the portion of the Osage River from the Missouri River to the Bagnell Dam;
- Require the prescribed location shall include artificial spaces that contain water and are within 500 feet of the 100-year base flood elevation as established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and
- Require all state revenues derived from the issuance of the gambling boat license shall be appropriated to early-childhood literacy programs in public institutions of elementary education?

State governmental entities estimate one-time costs of \$763,000, ongoing costs of \$2.2 million annually, initial fee revenue of \$271,000, ongoing admission and other fee revenue of \$2.1 million annually, and annual gaming tax revenue of \$14.3 million. Local governments estimate unknown revenue.

Pros: Proponents say that the additional gambling boat would generate funds for early-childhood literacy programs in public education. They also say it would enable the Osage Nation, with its petition before the Department of the Interior, to reestablish its ancestral ties to the region and provide jobs.

Cons: Opponents criticize the initial costs of Amendment 5 and say that the tax rate and fees are too low. They say Missouri has enough casinos and that compulsive gambling has negative consequences on individuals.

AMENDMENT 6 – Proposed by the General Assembly – Court Fees

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to include levying of costs and fees to support salaries and benefits for sheriffs, former sheriffs, prosecuting attorneys, former prosecuting attorneys, circuit attorneys, and former circuit attorneys for the administration of justice so all Missourians have access to courts of justice as guaranteed by this Constitution?

Pros: Proponents say the revenue generated from court fees would fund robust pensions for sheriffs and law enforcement personnel.

Cons: Opponents say it would create a set of incentives that tie pensions to the volume of arrests and prosecutions. In 2020, the Missouri Supreme Court said a \$3 fee that was charged on every court case in Missouri to fund the sheriffs' retirement system was an unconstitutional "sale of justice."

AMENDMENT 7 – Block Ranked Choice Voting and Other Alternative Election Systems

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

- Make the Constitution consistent with state law by only allowing citizens of the United States to vote;
- Prohibit the ranking of candidates by limiting voters to a single vote per candidate or issue; and
- Require the plurality winner of a political party primary to be the single candidate at a general election?

State and local governmental entities estimate no costs or savings.

NOTE: Current law already limits voting to citizens over the age of 18. This measure includes a grandfather clause to allow approval voting to continue in St. Louis City. *(continued on next page)*

Pros: Proponents say only U.S. citizens should vote in any election and that alternative election systems would harm fair voting in Missouri and be too complicated.

Cons: Opponents say that current law prohibits non-citizens from voting and that this is “ballot candy.” They say local governments should decide which election system is best and this initiative takes away local election control.

PROP A – Missourians for Healthy Families & Fair Wages

Do you want to amend Missouri law to:

- Increase minimum wage January 1, 2025 to \$13.75 per hour, increasing \$1.25 per hour each year until 2026, when the minimum wage would be \$15.00 per hour;
- Adjust minimum wage based on changes in the Consumer Price Index each January beginning in 2027;
- Require all employers to provide one hour of paid sick leave for every thirty hours worked;
- Allow the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations to provide oversight and enforcement; and
- Exempt governmental entities, political subdivisions, school districts, and education institutions

State governmental entities estimate one-time costs ranging from \$0 to \$53,000, and ongoing costs ranging from \$0 to at least \$256,000 per year by 2027. State and local government tax revenue could change by an unknown annual amount depending on business decisions.

Pros: Proponents say workers need higher wages and paid sick days to support themselves and their families. In addition, they say the gradual increase over three years is feasible for employers. They also say hard work should be rewarded and not punished if workers need time off for illness or to take care of their families.

Cons: Opponents say businesses will have difficulty meeting these increases and will pass on increased costs to consumers. Workers will end up paying the price.



This election is one of the most important ones in modern times, and informed voters are important. Please put this on your to-do list!

Our “Your Vote is Your Voice” sign provides a link that connects to the LWV website that has all the election information in English and Spanish.

People can check their voter registration, find their polling place, learn about candidates, and ballot issues in English and Spanish.

AAUW Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch has signs (the one to the left) for \$5.00, but some are available for educational purposes (such as local schools) and branch members without charge.

To make arrangements to have a sign delivered locally or to arrange a pickup spot, contact Jeanne Webdell at 573.754.0943.

Project 2025: What’s at Stake for Education

Project 2025 is a 900-page plan of action written by the Heritage Foundation and more than one hundred other conservative groups. It is an explicit effort to further the presidency and to unravel the civil rights gains achieved over the last seven decades. This plan benefits white nationalists and other like-minded groups.

Here are a few examples of how civil rights in education would be affected by this proposal. You can find out more about this plan by going to <https://civilrights.org>.

- Gutting Enforcement of Civil Rights Laws
- Narrowing the Definition of Discrimination
- Abolishing the Department of Education
- Cutting Funding to Public Schools
- Promoting School Vouchers
- Marginalizing Disabled Students of Color
- Encouraging Discriminatory School Discipline

See page 7 for additional information on this topic.

AAUW METRO ST LOUIS IBC

St. Louis is **one of the five branches** that form the AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council, more commonly known as IBC. They meet 4 times a year, some virtually and some in person. Each branch is allowed 3 voting delegates, and historically the officers of each branch have served as those delegates.

The purpose of IBC is to foster cooperation among member branches and to financially support programs and projects and to open channels of communication among branches for the sharing of ideas and interests.

The next quarterly meeting will be on Tuesday, November 26, 2024. The website is <https://stlouis-ibc.aauw.net/>. All AAUW members are welcome to attend.

Metro St. Louis Branch Programs

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch—The October speaker will be Vivian Gibson (sister of Malaika Horne, member of AAUW St. Louis Branch), author of *Women of a Certain Age Have Stories to Tell*, 9:30-11:30, Ballwin Golf Course Events Center, 333 Holloway Rd, Ballwin. Gibson was raised on Bernard Street in Mill Creek Valley in downtown St. Louis, studied apparel design at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City, and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Fontbonne University. Vivian lived in New York and Liberia and currently lives in St. Louis.

Ferguson-Florissant Branch—Contact [Patty Murray](mailto:PattyMurrayAAUW@gmail.com) for meeting information, 314-838-7887.

Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch—Thursday, October 17, 2024, 6:30 pm, Kirkwood United Methodist Church. Marsha Koch's daughter-in-law and Girl Scout leader, Dr. Amy Koch, will speak about what the focus is today for Girl Scouts in the St. Louis area and how the organization is coping with changes in scouting.

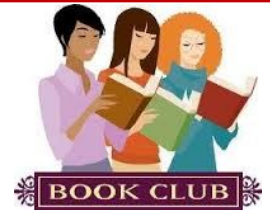
Saint Charles Branch—Meets the first Thursday at 1 p.m. at First St. Charles UMC, 801 First Capitol Drive, St. Charles 63301. The program on October 3 was "We Remember Eleanor Roosevelt on Her Birthday ~ October 11, 1884." Previous Barbara Lackritz Honorees met before social time and the program, which was "Brain Power" by a speaker from AARP, and followed up with a short business meeting.

Expressions Craft Group

1st Tuesday, 1-3 p.m. Next meeting Dec. 3, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 13014 Olive Blvd., Creve Coeur

Our focus is to make and learn crafts and projects. All AAUW members and their guests are welcome. Contact Kay Meyer or Nancy Hutchins.

IBC ¡ADELANTE! BOOK GROUP



This group meets virtually to discuss books written from diverse perspectives.

Where: Join Zoom meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85338959790?pwd=NFNKS01FMXh6bXpiaXh0ci80VC9rUT09>

When: 1:30 pm the 4th Thursday of the month in September, October, January, February, March, April, May

Contact: PattyMurrayAAUW@gmail.com

Zoom access: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87393625222?pwd=Z8LmoZpCgqVwS6wAZmPoNEcUa0b2Pq.1>

Meeting ID: 873 9362 5222

Passcode: 922338

Dial your location: 1-312-626-6799 (US Chicago)

Upcoming selections:

Oct 24 *Ordinary Grace*, by William Kent Krueger, 336 pages, published 6-5-2013. Nancy Hutchins, facilitator. From *New York Times* bestselling author William Kent Krueger, a brilliant new novel about a young man, a small town, and murder in the summer of 1961.

Jan 23 *Circling the Sun*, by Paula McLain, 384 pages, published July 2015. Deb McWard, facilitator. This powerful novel transports readers to the breathtaking world of Out of Africa—1920s Kenya—and reveals the extraordinary adventures of Beryl Markham, a woman before her time.

Feb 27 *The Women*, by Kristin Hannah, 480 pages, published 2-6-2024. Jan Barrett, facilitator. Women can be heroes—a nursing student joins the Army Nurse Corps during the Vietnam war.

Mar 27 *The Island of Missing Trees*, by Elif Shafak, 368 pages, published November 2021. Lynne Roney, facilitator. Two teenagers, a Greek Cypriot and a Turkish Cypriot, war, and the untangling of years of secrets.

Apr 24 *Light on Bone*, by Kathryn Lasky, 298 pages, published 9-6-2022. Teri Brecht, facilitator. Kathryn Lasky has written an exciting new adult amateur sleuth mystery set in New Mexico in the 1930s.

National News

From Susan Barley
National Advancement Committee and
AAUW MO Fund Chair
September 20, 2024
314-361-2920
barley702@gmail.com



Much of the recent updates and “news” has been sent to you recently via *Membership Matters* and *Mission and Action*.

1. One of the very important things that is happening this month is the call to all branches to participate in the FY2024 Branch Survey. The survey was emailed to every branch president on September 12. Deadline to complete the survey is October 14.

Branches are asked to complete the survey so AAUW can let the world know the impact AAUW has on communities using mission-based programs and activities. In addition, the survey will let the AAUW staff and Board know what support is needed for growth and viability for our branches.

Let’s brag about our accomplishments to ensure equity for women and girls and be proud about our collective work! Together we are a force capable of changing the world! Please encourage branches to complete the Branch Survey.

The survey ties in directly to the Five Star Recognition Program.

- * Five Star Page: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/>
- * Link to Questions: <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2024/09/FY24-Branch-Impact-Survey-Questions-9.13.pdf>

2. The Gender Pay Gap Widens - read AAUW's press release: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/2024-gender-pay-gap-data/>

3. The October 10 member gathering was well attended - we had over 1,200 registrations!

It was a time to recognize outstanding supporters and branches, share updates on our work, and foster connections within our AAUW community.

You may watch the recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeBBBeTVR_Fw

4. Event Calendar for Salary Negotiation and Financial Literacy webinars:
<https://my.aauw.org/eventcalendardirectory>

5. Women's Economic Empowerment Initiative: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/womens-economic-empowerment-initiative/>

6. **Important reminder:** Branches do not endorse candidates - this is important to AAUW National’s status as a 501c3 organization.

AAUW Missouri has members on five National AAUW committees. Thanks, Ladies, for your time and commitment.

- ◇ **Sue Barley** is on the Advancement Committee-National Liaison. She will send a monthly report to Board members and Branch Presidents.
- ◇ **Sue Shineman** is on the Governance Committee.
- ◇ **Luna Mukherjee** and **Karen Francis** are on the DEI Committee.
- ◇ **Alice Kitchen** is on the Public Policy Committee.

(Continued from page 5)

Women’s Voices Raised for Social Justice
October 10, 2024, at 7 p.m.,
Center of Clayton, 50 Gay Avenue, Clayton, MO

Project 2025: What It Is and Why It Matters

Speaker: Kirill Kondratyuk
[Read more and register here.](#)

Kirill Kondratyuk is a 10th-grade student who immigrated with his family from Ukraine following the Russian occupation of Crimea. His journey has sparked a deep passion for history, geography, and political science. These subjects aren't just academic interests for him – they're intimately connected to his personal experiences and the global events that have shaped his life.

Kondratyuk is committed to using his voice and experiences to contribute to positive change, and he looks forward to this opportunity to engage with important social and political issues and their relationships to his personal background.