

President's Message

Many thanks and much information as Election Day is upon us

November 5th, Election Day, is just a few days away and many of you have already cast your ballot. If you have not done so and have questions about candidates, check [IllinoisVoterGuide.org](https://www.IllinoisVoterGuide.org) for information on federal and state elections. You can also view recorded candidate forums the LWVGP held this election season with local candidates by checking out our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHjdurif6_j7aqNLLIFXzKQ. To find information on judicial candidates: <https://www.isba.org/judicial-elections/counties/peoria>

It is also important to remember that election night is not results night. It may take time to have absentee and vote by mail ballots counted, as well as provisional ballots. In addition, procedural measures such as audits, recounts and certification take time to complete. This will require patience from all of us as we await the results.

Thank you to all the workers who registered voters, helped with mock elections, get-out-the-vote activities and candidate forums to help voters make informed decisions as they cast their ballot. We also recognize the people who work diligently to keep our elections safe and secure: state and local election officials, poll workers, election observers and volunteers. Elections are an opportunity to shape our democracy with our vote – Democracy in Action!

———— Connie Romanus, LWVGP president

Important Dates:

6 a.m – 7 p.m., Tues., Nov. 5: General Election Day!
4 p.m. Mon., Nov. 11: LWVGP Board Meeting via Zoom
5 p.m. Tues., Nov. 12: Voter Services Committee meeting at Peoria Public Library – Downtown
5:30 p.m. (social), 6 p.m. (program), Weds., Nov. 20: Drinks & Dialogue at Lariat Steakhouse
Sat., Jan. 11: Save the date for LWVGP Annual Program Planning meeting – location TBA

DRINKS & DIALOGUE

Alex Sierra deserves our thanks for his appearance at our Drinks and Dialogue event in October. Alex is the Vice President of Operations at the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce. He gave us an excellent update on the work of the Chamber and its goals. Alex's presentation was substantially enhanced by member Roberta Parks, the former President of the Chamber. She provided very meaningful context to the report from Alex.

For November, we have invited Lynette Steger from the Peoria Women's Club (PWC) to tell us about her work on public policy and what is happening with the PWC.

We will again meet at the Lariat Steakhouse. The date is Wednesday, Nov. 20. As always, social time convenes at 5:30, the program at 6:00 with a conclusion at 7 p.m. Please try to join us.



———— Terry Kohlbus

IN REMEMBRANCE

Our condolences to Terry Matthews on the death of her husband Larry on Oct. 3. Terry and Larry have been long time members of the League of Women Voters.

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WHY DOWN-BALLOT VOTING MATTERS – adapted via LWVIL

It's no secret there is a presidential election Nov. 5. We are inundated with news, social media and campaign ads on a daily basis. And yes, the League of Women Voters of Illinois encourages all eligible citizens to register and vote in

this important presidential election. But the fact that other critical national and state level candidates are also on the ballot next month can sometimes get lost in the noise.

The U.S. president does not make U.S. laws or allocate how your tax dollars are spent. Under the U.S. Constitution, that power is given only to Congress. Voting “down the ballot” will likely have an even greater impact on your life than voting for the president. Here’s why: If you are concerned about the national budget or immigration or the environment, for example, you should make it a priority to vote for members of Congress who will best represent your views when such laws are made.

Members of the U.S. Senate have enormous power to shape the judicial system and the “administrative state” in general through their power to approve Presidential appointments. They are also responsible, along with the U.S. House, for holding the president accountable as part of the balance of powers afforded to Congress in the Constitution.

Recently, the Supreme Court of the United States has granted greater and greater authority to state governments. This is the case for voting rights, reproductive rights and other issues that have recently come before the Court. The elevated role of state authority makes it imperative that voters elect the state officials who will best represent them for matters now delegated to state lawmakers.

Like the U.S. Congress, only state legislators (i.e. state senators and state representatives) can make laws and pass a budget for their states.

Finally, the people you elect in Illinois (both state and local) have the authority to impact how elections are run, how congressional maps are drawn, govern their own code of ethics, and a number of other functions that are the cornerstones of our democratic system of government.

Just as every vote matters, every vote you don’t cast may matter more.

LWVIL GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROJECT

During the June LWVIL meeting, a request to review the LWVIL Gun Violence Prevention (GVP) position statement was approved, and volunteers from throughout the state have agreed to work on the project. The review team has developed consensus questions for local leagues to consider, and those questions were approved in October by the LWVIL Board for review by locals. A study document has also been created.

The goal is to complete the local review by the end of January 2025.

This is a good opportunity for LWV Greater Peoria to participate with LWVIL and find consensus. I will be reaching out to members this month to get a local review team together. If the topic is important to you, contact me: cromanus1249@yahoo.com

————— Connie Romanus, LWVGP president

MAHOMET AQUIFER PROTECTION INITIATIVE

William Koehl, with LWVIL Issues and Advocacy, is seeking volunteers from local leagues that are interested in helping with grass-roots communications or advocacy related to the issue of protecting the Mahomet Aquifer from carbon dioxide sequestration.

Two bills that would limit future CO2 sequestration under sole-source aquifers could potentially be considered during the Legislature's fall veto session this month: [HB 5874](#) and [SB 3968](#) (the latter co-sponsored by Peoria's state Sen. Dave Koehler). A website has also been established by the coalition working to prevent CO2 sequestration: [Protect the Mahomet Aquifer](#)

If you're interested in volunteering, contact William Koehl: 222koehl@gmail.com

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MEMBERSHIP

If you have not had a chance to renew your membership, please do so online at <https://www.lwvgp.org/store/p3/join.html>

If you would prefer to mail your membership renewal, you can print the form from the same site and mail it to the address provided. We also accept membership renewals at our monthly events.

————— Theresa Koehler, Chairperson

VOTER SERVICES

It's been an extraordinarily busy last few months for the Voter Services Committee.

Voter Registration Efforts

Voter Registration is over for this election season. Mary Jane Crowell and Piper Petrocelli have been doing an outstanding job organizing **32 Voter Registration events with a total of 395 registered voters to date**. Thank you to all the volunteers who registered voters at the Naturalization Ceremonies, community events, prison, and students at the Mock Elections. Rob Parks applied for and received a \$250 grant to help pay for a wagon and a LWVGP-branded tablecloth for our events. It takes a lot of people power to do this work. If you are a deputy registrar in any county in Illinois and you want to help with future efforts, please reach out to Piper Petrocelli at 309-512-3808. If you want to become a deputy registrar, contact your county election office.

Mock Elections

Datikka Peebles and Rob Parks hosted mock elections at three area high schools during the last week in September and the first week in October: the Peoria Regional Learning Center (county alternative high school); Peoria High; and Richwoods High (see video on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@leagueofwomenvotersofgreat5058>). Thanks to wonderful support from the Peoria Election Commission Office, all students at PRLC and all juniors and seniors at PHS and RHS were eligible to vote in these mock elections. The Election Commission office printed the mock ballots as though all the students lived in their respective high school district. This means the ballot looked like the ballot any registered voter in Peoria County would see when they went to their polling place. Additionally, the Election Commission staff brought scanners to the school. This made the voting experience as similar to actually voting as it could be. Results were tabulated and reported back to the school.

LWVGP volunteers registered any interested student who was already 18 or would be 18 on or before Nov. 5 so those students could vote in the actual November election. In total, we registered 31 young people.

Voter turnout was as follows:

PRLC – 21 ballots cast out of a population of about 32 students or about 66%

PHS – 90 ballots cast out of a population of about 600 students or about 15%

RHS – 258 ballots cast out of a population of about 770 students or about 35%

Hats off to Principal Teresa VonRohr and Teacher Jacob Draminski at PRLC; Assistant Principal Dr. Nahreisha Tate and Teacher Sara Ridley at PHS; and Assistant Principal Dr. Renee Andrews and Teacher Corey Curtis at RHS for their help in arranging these mock elections and getting the students engaged in voting and registering to vote.

Fifty volunteer posts were filled, some members worked more than one event. Many were LWVGP members, with NAACP Peoria Branch members and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Peoria Alumnae Chapter members. Some were members of all three groups! Thanks to all

Thank you Datikka Peebles and Roberta Parks for building relationships with the schools and students. Your efforts will live on as those students become voters for the first time, making a difference in our community and country.

Mock Elections are scheduled for March 2025 at Knoxville Center for Success and Manual HS.

Candidate Forums

On Sept. 14 Anu Uddavolu and Eileen Steed hosted a candidate forum for the Peoria Judicial 10th Circuit (77 views on YouTube) and the County Board Districts 6 and 8 (84 views). Chris Kaergard was the moderator. We had 38 attendees, 13 of whom filled out our marketing survey. We learned our efforts to get the word out paid off. People saw us on TV, heard about us on the radio, saw us on social media, and through friends and family sharing our news.

The forum on Sept. 28 was for the Peoria County State's Attorney race (177 views) with incumbent Jodi Hoos and challenger Robert Boucher. Irene Pritzer and Susan Russell hosted this event. Connie Romanus was the moderator. We had 42 attendees and 21 participated in the marketing survey with most indicating they heard about the forum through their friends or social media with a few who said radio, TV, or print.

View the Live Streamed Forums: <https://www.youtube.com/@leagueofwomen-votersofgreat5058> Click on "Live" to watch these forums.

On Oct. 14 the LWV hosted a candidate forum for the 46th Senate race with incumbent Dave Koehler and Sally Owens, co-hosted with the McLean County LWV and radio stations WCBU and WGLT. Available now on our website:

<https://www.youtube.com/@leagueofwomenvotersofgreat5058> Click on “Videos” to watch this forum.

Get Out the Vote

Joyce Rosenberger, Pam Schubach, and Eileen Steed worked on the GOTV campaign for this election cycle. The 2,291 postcards were sent out the week of Oct. 14 to the low turnout voters we identified through Smart Voter Data. These registered voters did not vote in the 2020 election. We printed 100 extra postcards that were shared with the NAACP who paid \$500 towards this campaign. Extra postcards were distributed at voter registration and forums.

The 50 yard signs were placed at various locations in the 61605 ZIP code and at homes of LWVGP members throughout the city. These signs are not election specific, so they can be reused.

Datikka Peeples worked with ShamRa Robinson at CityLink to provide free rides on Election Day, and the transit agency has agreed to offer free rides on October 26, 27, and November 2, 3, 4, and 5! We have posted this information on our Facebook page and on our website. In addition, CityLink has added this message to their phone system when anyone calls their main number.

Connie Romanus coordinated a LWV ad on the electronic sign near the corner of War Memorial and Knoxville. It went live Sept. 26. On Election Day the message will change to “Thank you for voting.”

The communications team is documenting all the media coverage, ad space we bought, increases in voter turnout, and the GOTV costs to analyze the data for the next election.

———— Eileen Steed, Chairperson

PEORIA COUNTY BOARD: Oct. 10

The Peoria County Board held its Oct. 10 meeting with all members present except Brian Elsasser and Steven Rieker.

The two regular business items were passed unanimously without discussion. A contract for \$747,213 was approved for Peoria County Courthouse repairs and cleaning, and a zoning request was approved in Radnor Township. The following were highlights of the unanimously approved consent agenda:

- ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds will be used to purchase an unimproved 53-acre tract.
- Civil litigation settlement in the amount of \$175,000.
- A three-year agreement with Wellpath to provide jail detainee mental and medical healthcare in the county jail in the amount of \$8,743,715.
- Contracts with FamilyCore and the Human Service Center to provide Re-deploy program services in the amount of \$369,643.
- A contract with J&F Chiatello for replacement of the highway department's salt dome roof in the amount of \$85,900.

The board received a 20-minute presentation on a new Jail Master Plan that outlined 5 options to address maintenance and improvements at the jail which was built in 1985. The options range from expanded maintenance funding to demolition of some sections with new construction to a totally new jail. The costs range from \$23M to \$277M. The board plans to conduct a policy discussion in early 2025 on the options once the full report is available. The presentation can be found at the below video link from minute 43 to 1:04.

Six citizens' remarks were received concerning proposed wind energy towers in western Peoria County near Brimfield, Laura and Princeville. No action on the towers was on the agenda since the proposal has not yet been addressed by the Zoning Board or the County Land Use Committee.

Proclamations were read recognizing Kidder Music's 50 anniversary, Operation Green Light for Veterans, Domestic Violence Prevention Month, the 2024 Peoria City/County Civic Leadership Academy graduates, and Natural Fiber Welding as one of fifteen finalists of the prestigious Earthshot Prize 2024.

Sheriff Watkins and Veterans Assistance Superintendent Michael Brooks were honored for twenty years with the county, and Member Brandy Bryant was recognized for 5 years on the board.

Link to the meeting agenda and packet is [here](#) and the video is [here](#).

———— Jim Runyon, Observer

PEORIA COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION: Oct. 15

The Peoria County Board of Election Commissioners held their monthly meeting on Oct. 15. Commissioner Rosa Kemper was absent. Out of 22,000 Vote by Mail ballots sent out for the Nov. 5 election, 13,000 have already been returned. That is approximately 60%. Expectation is that 90% will be returned. Also, 3,500 citizens have voted early for an average of about 300 a day.

In answer to a question about having a Vote by Mail ballot but choosing to vote in person, Executive Director Elizabeth Gannon explained that the VBM ballot should be handed in at the polling place. If not, the voter will only receive a provisional ballot that will not be counted until the judges are sure that the citizen is not voting twice.

Although a lease has not yet been signed, it sounds like the Election Commission will be leasing the remainder of the building where they are housed. The lease needs to be signed, and the County Board must approve the 2025 budget.

———— Irene Pritzker, Observer

PEORIA CITY COUNCIL: Sept. 24

All members of the Council were present with meeting starting at 6 p.m. There were three public hearings for annexation of property at 9910 N Orange Prairie Rd and IL Rte. 91, 6500 W. Rte. 150, Dunlap, and 1033 E. Mossville Rd. and one proposed amendment to annexation agreement for 9601 Allen Rd. No public comments were made.

Minutes of Sept. 10 meeting approved. The consent agenda was approved without discussion. Council approved authorization of real estate purchase of Tower on Adams Properties; vote was 9 to 2 in favor, with Councilors Denis Cyr and John Kelly opposed.

Finance Director Kyle Cratty informed the Council the 2025 Budget timeline will kick off at Oct. 8 meeting with approval by Nov. 15. Director Cratty gave an overview of the July 31 unaudited budget. Revenues are slightly down, but at pace by year end with sales tax and state income tax strong. Civic Center bridge loan repaid in total. Discussion on effect of grocery sales tax repeal in 2026 with tax deficit of \$4 million as well as pension for public safety employee obligations growing.

Council approved request to adopt an ordinance to amend existing municipal code regarding existing stand-alone tobacco retail licenses. Corporation Counsel Patrick Hayes gave an overview of proposed changes that could adjust the cap on the number of businesses in an area.

Under new business, Cyr requested information on law or ordinance that would provide consistency in certain areas of city related to closing times for businesses with liquor license. Hayes will bring information back to Council.

You can watch Council meetings in person or on access channel 22 or listen to WCBU 89.9. Agendas and video available on city website.

————— Connie Romanus, Observer

PEORIA CITY COUNCIL: Oct. 8

Council meeting began on time at 6 p.m. with all members present. Proclamations made to following: Civic Leadership Academy, National Metastatic Breast Cancer Day, Fire Prevention Month, and National Latino Physician Day. Minutes of Sept. 24 meeting approved.

Town officials approved September 2024 Actual expenditures and approved October anticipated expenses for the Town of City of Peoria. Council also approved Consent Agenda without discussion.

Regular business items:

- Approved request from Chief of Police to purchase 15 Blue Ridge Armor Rifle-Rated Ballistic Shields in amount \$108,750 to replace outdated shields from funds in current PPD budget.
- Approved resolution with GFL Waste Company to authorize Landfill #3 Agreement with city. City costs will decrease to slightly less than \$1.5 million. Residents will see \$25/month fee on tax statement and household hazardous waste events will be held monthly in the county.
- Received and filed 2025 Revised Budget. Council will be meeting weekly on Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. on budget through Nov. 5. The proposed budget is \$282.2 million, with \$186M for General Fund, \$65M for capital investment, no increase in safety pension and will close out \$47.1M American Rescue Funds.
- Finance Director Kyle Cratty gave update on finances for month ending Aug. 31. Revenues continue to be ahead of schedule and slightly behind

on expenditures. Bridge loan to Civic Center report broken down by category and fully paid off.

Agendas and minutes available on city website, www.peoriagov.org.

————— Connie Romanus, Observer

DUNLAP DISTRICT 323 SCHOOL BOARD: Oct. 16

The regular school board meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. on Oct. 16 with six members present. Board member Andrew Tyra was absent.

Superintendent Scott Dearman reported that two FOIA requests have been completed. He announced that Dunlap Middle School had received a National Blue Ribbon Award. Dr. Dearman said that all schools in the district are designated commendable or exemplary. In spite of high marks in many areas, there is a need to address absenteeism and truancy. The goal of the coming school year is to improve attendance.

The following business items were approved: Payment of bills, Treasurer's Report, District Investment, Snow Removal Contract, High School Graduation Contract, Human Resources Consent Agenda and the Vantage Architectural Contract.

Dr. Dearman clarified Vantage Architectural Contract and its association with the construction management company Estes for the new \$8.5 million athletic training center. The companies share common ownership, but the relationship is not a problem. To ensure checks and balances, Dunlap will have two separate contracts, one with Estes and one with Vantage. The district's attorneys have reviewed the contracts and are comfortable with them.

The 42,000-square-foot complex at Legion Hall Road and Cedar Hills Drive is meant to relieve overcrowding in the district's current athletic facilities. Completion date is early 2026. The board approved the contract 6-0.

Open session was closed at 6:21 p.m.

————— Dottie Strickler, Observer

ILLINOIS CENTRAL COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Oct. 17

All trustees were present at the Oct. 17 ICC board meeting except Kelly Daniels. The trustees approved the Consent Agenda with correction to the minutes,

Treasurers Report, and discontinuance of the Legal Studies Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree program and Library Technical Assistant Certificate.

VP of Finance Bruce Budde highlighted in the Treasurer's report: Real estate taxes look favorable this month, which is based on timing of when real estate taxes are received. While CPPRT (Corporate Property Replacement Tax) is on track this month, it will be down significantly for the year. Hopefully this shortfall will be made up in other ways, including positive variances on the expenditure side and some upside in revenue

Informational and Report Highlights: The board recognized the success and achievements of the students and advisors from one of the apprenticeship programs. There are 181 students enrolled in the increasing number of apprenticeship programs. ICC will be recognizing apprenticeship students at a Signing Day event at the Peoria Campus on Nov. 19.

Legislative Committee Report: Community college legislative priorities for the spring legislative session include 1.) authority for Illinois community colleges to award Bachelor of Applied Science degrees that lead to high wage/high demand careers; 2.) improve access to dual credit for all Illinois students; 3.) enhance Illinois community colleges transfer process to public four-year programs; 4.) maintain local control; and 5.) develop statewide common manufacturing workforce ecosystem

President's report: FASFA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) data as of Oct. 15: 5,460 undergraduate students are enrolled in the fall term; 3,628 of those (66%) filed FAFSA which is consistent with historical data. While nationwide the applications were down 20%; the ICC team stepped up and made sure that students were able to complete the form. Some 2,239 individual students (41%) received either state or federal funding; that does not include grant awards or foundation supported students.

Budde discussed the Clery Act Reporting & Campus Police Annual Report which shows few incidents reported on the ICC campuses. He credited the campus police for the safety of ICCs campuses. The goal of the campus police is to make sure that students and staff feel comfortable, supported and safe.

Tax Levy: A draft of the levy was provided. Budde reported that since its development, the three main counties EAVs have been reported. Tazwell increase will be 8.5%; Woodford approximately 9% and Peoria County is 7.5%. There will be some adjustments to the final levy presented at next month's meeting.

Move to closed session at 6:40pm

Link to the full meeting packet: <https://icc.edu/about/board-trustees/meeting-materials/>

————— Monica Freaner, Observer

SPRINGDALE CEMETERY BOARD: Oct. 21

The Springdale Cemetery Management Authority held its monthly regular meeting Oct. 21 with all members present except Zach Oyler.

The board formally approved Aaron Comte as the new General Manager replacing Mark Matuszak who has served since 2013. Matuszak will remain until Nov. 11 to assist with the transition. Comte, a Peoria native, has most recently been employed at Wilton Mortuary. The board unanimously approved adding Comte to all financial accounts and to remove Matuszak.

The board reviewed the 2025 draft budget that will receive final approval in December. The draft should be available for public review at the [Springdale website](#) by the end of October.

The board unanimously approved repairs to the privately-owned Zotz mausoleum that was damaged during a July storm. Pending insurance approval, the board approved engaging Otto Baum Company to complete the needed work based on its estimate of \$42K for the repairs.

The board deferred further action on merging the “Decoration Trust Fund” with the cemetery endowment fund until legal counsel can provide the correct wording for the board resolution.

As the summer season comes to an end, seasonal employees will be released and five maintenance staff will be retained through the winter months.

The board reviewed engineering plans for the “South Center North” area that abuts the Savannah. The area will be developed to provide at least 360 new burial lots however a new road may be necessary to provide easier access for funeral vehicle and foot traffic.

The Screaming Pumpkin Race will be held in the cemetery from 4-10 p.m. on Oct. 28 with nearly 500 participants.

————— Jim Runyon, Observer, substituting for Joan Wojcikewych, Observer

GREATER PEORIA SANITARY DISTRICT: Oct. 15

GPSD Board of Trustees and Investment Committee meeting was held on Oct. 15 at 9:30 a.m. Minutes published by GPSD provide numerical and other details of the highlights listed below as well as details of bidding, design, sewer connections and developer projects.

Investment Committee highlights

The GPSD Investment Committee reported the plan to reinvest \$2.5 million encouraged by the market conditions. The investments will be in CDs.

GPSD management is working on several projects that include maintenance and investments in the district's assets. Some of the key activities:

- Extend annual Electrical and Mechanical Contracts (Oberlander Electric for the former and G.A. Rich & Sons for the latter) through February 2025 and April 2025, respectively.
- Approve Pretreatment Building Hydro-Gritter Painting Project to Era Valdivia Contractors, Inc., \$108,800. This bid was selected out of 4 bidders.
- Reject Bids for Grease Receiving Facility and authorize Bidding of Revised Project. Liquid Waste Receiving Facility Bids have been received for Phase II. The bids received were significantly higher than what GPSD is currently budgeting. Management recommended rejecting all of the bids and authorizing the project to be re-bid at a smaller, but equally impactful scope in line with reasonable payback period.
- GPSD is working on upgrading its digester operations. Burnham Corp is reviewing the current operations and is considering making a capital investment based certain technical conditions to increase the digester capacity and efficiency (avoid tipping fees.) These activities can lead to an increase of bio-gas production and subsequently an increase in revenue. At the same time, this project can result in a reduction of Carbon Intensity of GPSD activities.

Operating Reports (Finance, Administration, Operations, Engineering)

- Replacement taxes received stand a bit lower than this time last year. Seasonal expenses are expected to increase next month. Electronic security issues at American Water impacted this month's billing. As a result, revenue is slightly lower than budget this month, while income year-to-date is over budget.
- Pollutant level showed an increase of phosphorous in the period of May through September. Effluent Fecal Cloriform also showed one spike during the last month. It is not clear if the latter is due to sampling irregularities. Chemical expenses are expected to increase accordingly. Expenses also will include sludge hauling.
- Inventory audits were conducted and accounted for all assets.

GPSD reported progress towards compliance with the July 24th, 2023, USEPA Administrative Order of Consent (AOC).

The Engineering Department Monthly report included the status of five construction projects with contracts open at this time.

1. Annual Repair Contract – 2024: 67% complete
2. Grease Receiving Facility – Phase I: 95% complete
3. Sewer Lining Project 16: 89% complete
4. City of Peoria 2023 Sewer Cleaning & Inspection: 50% complete
5. Spring, Caroline, and Phase 1 Gate Controls: 1% Complete

The Consent Decree Project Dashboard details the stages of the ongoing projects in the various areas listed above.

————— Hind Abi-Akar, Observer

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NEW MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM FAQs – adapted via LWVUS

View the full FAQ [online here](#).

What is ChapterSpot?

ChapterSpot is a membership platform where you will be able to log in and update your own member information and renew your membership online.

Why is LWV adopting a unified membership system?

There are many benefits to this new system. First, this will increase and diversify overall membership and accordingly will increase our ability to fulfill our mission. Second, restructuring the dues model will increase the funding at the state and local levels where it is needed. Third, adopting technology that streamlines membership will free up time for League leaders to focus on more substantive work.

What will the dues rate be?

Dues will be pay-what-you-can. The recommended dues rate will be \$75, but you can pay any amount more than that, or any amount less than that to a minimum of \$20. If your League's current dues rate is higher than \$75, you are encouraged to continue to pay the current dues rate to help the League maintain its current budget.

How much of my dues will go to my local League?

20% of dues will go to the local League, 47% will go to the state League, and 33% will go to LWVUS.

Can I make a contribution that goes exclusively to my local League?

Yes. On the page after you choose your dues rate, there will be an option to make a contribution directly to your local League. 100% of that donation will go to your League.

What payment methods can I use?

The preferred payment method is ACH, which is an electronic payment method that just requires typing in the numbers at the bottom of a check. This is pre-

ferred because it has the lowest fees and maximizes the amount of money going toward League work. The secondary option is to pay online by credit/debit card. It will also still be possible to pay by check as needed.

Are my dues tax-deductible?

Any portion of dues going to a 501(c)(3) are tax-deductible. If your local and/or state League dues are going to a 501(c)(3), that will be identified in your confirmation email, which can be used as a tax receipt.

Will there still be household memberships?

No. You can still sign up for yourself and someone else, but it's not designated as a household membership anymore. The recommended dues rate will be \$150 (the individual recommended rate times two) and the minimum rate will be \$40 (the minimum rate times two), but as with individuals, you can choose any amount, including the current household rate at your League.

Will there still be lifetime memberships?

Yes, those who have been members for 50 or more years will still be exempt from dues.

Will there still be student memberships?

No. The pay-what-you-can model is intended to extend the understanding of possible financial need to all members, including students. Some Leagues may choose to subsidize members to pay below the \$20 minimum.

When will I renew?

You will renew a year after your last renewal (e.g. if you renew in October, you will renew again the following October). This is in contrast to some Leagues that currently have everyone renew at the same time each year.

How will I know it's time to renew?

You will receive an email reminder from ChapterSpot when your expiration date is approaching.

Is there an easier way?

Yes! If you check the box for auto-renew, each year your membership will automatically renew for the same rate you previously chose. You will still receive

a reminder email notifying you that the renewal is coming up, but you won't need to do anything.

When does membership switch over to ChapterSpot?

At the end of January/beginning of February 2025.

Should I still renew before it switches over?

Yes, prior to ChapterSpot launching you should still renew as usual.

Is there anything else I need to do?

In January/February 2025, you will be asked to log in to the ChapterSpot portal for the first time to "claim your membership." This just means that you will log in and be given the opportunity to fill out any membership information asked by your League.

Can I sign up to get fewer emails?

Yes. You can unsubscribe from some types of messages, such as fundraising emails or optional newsletters. As a member of the organization, some messages, such as those about your membership, are not optional.

What if I don't use the internet?

You will not be required to access the portal. You can continue to write checks for your dues payments and your League's roster manager can continue to input your information to the roster as needed.

What if I have additional questions later?

Please email membership@lwv.org with any questions.



League of Women Voters
of Greater Peoria

P.O. Box 9786, Peoria, IL 61612-9786

**League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria Board of Directors
2024-25**

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