



THE VOTER

Volume 68, Issue 8

Sept. 2015

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Cheryl Budzinski, President
309/253-9594
c_budzinski@hotmail.com

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Newsletter editor,
Elaine Hopkins
ehopkins7@prodiqy.net

IMPORTANT DATES

**Aug. 26. 6 pm, Money
in Politics, AMT
Building.**

**Aug. 27. 7-8 p.m. 18th
District Candidate
Forum, WEEK-TV.**

**Sept. 3. 6 pm,
ReDistricting AMT
Building.**

**Sept. 15. 5:30 pm,
Drinks & Dialogue
*continued back page***

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

So many of us are sick of the dysfunction in Springfield and Washington DC. LWVGP would appreciate your help on several fronts.

1. **Participate in the 18th Congressional candidate forum on Thursday, August 27.** This will be televised live on WEEK-TV from 7-8 pm. Watch the forum on TV. Or, we need volunteers at the forum. And as a co-sponsor we have seats available in the audience. I need your name and anyone coming with you to the candidate forum by August 25. I will give you details if you email me at League@lwvgp.org
2. **Support** our League's efforts to collect petition signatures to put the **Redistricting Amendment** on the November 2016 ballot. This was the unanimous choice at our Annual Business meeting of what our League should work on. Cindi Canary, the speaker at our **September 3** General Meeting, is well known in Illinois as a reformer. She should be a fascinating speaker. Ask her those difficult questions: "Why isn't this happening for Congressional seats!"
3. **Participate** on the committee **studying Amending the US Constitution**. Or, go to the November General Meeting which will be the consensus meeting on this issue.
4. **Learn** about **Money in Politics**. The new focus of campaigns is big money, and why is it so difficult to know: who did the political ad; why do some ads seem so irritating (is that on purpose?); do these ads work?
5. **Discuss** local issues at Drinks & Dialogue. Have you tried this League discussion group?

The September 10 election is different in several ways: a Thursday election day, only one ballot item, and citizens can now **register and vote on Election Day**. (Since we at League are so involved in registering voters, it is noteworthy that we can register also online which should appeal to younger voters.) The tricky thing about "Same Day" is that the voter must be in their correct polling place and they must have appropriate identification. (ID requirements same as our usual registration requirements.) This has potential to change campaigns and election outcomes, of course.

I hope that if we don't ask you directly to help or participate, please know that we would love for you to call or come to a meeting that interests you.

A sincere thank you to Leaguers Pat Landes, Mary McDade, and Carol May who did such an incredible presentation and event for the 50th Anniversary on August 6 of President Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act. And, thank you to our volunteers at the event and the ACLU and NAACP.
-- Cheryl Budzinski League@lwvgp.org

Illinois Government: Change or Status Quo? Redistricting Reform

Important Meeting Sept. 3 at 6pm

Our guest speaker for the September 3rd General Meeting is ***Cynthia Canary the executive director for the Independent Map Amendment***. She has an extensive background working in good government organizations. The meeting takes place at 6 pm at the auditorium of the AMT building, 1718 N. Sterling.

From 2013 she has been a senior advisor for the Democratic Institutions Program providing strategic consulting, organizing, outreach and other stated-based support. She also is a consultant to nonprofit organizations, providing leadership coaching, executive research, strategic planning and policy development services in her role as a freelance management consultant. She is also a board member and former president of the Mikva Challenge which works with high school students to experience civics. In 2011 she chaired Chicago Mayor Rom Emanuel's Task Force on ethics. And of course she was the Executive Director of the Illinois LWV for 4 years. She served on the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform.

We need a large attendance from our members to ***welcome a woman of leadership***. Do we want change or do we like Illinois government as it is?! -- Gary Stella and Cheryl Budzinski

REDISTRICTING NEWS

Registered Voters can sign redistricting petitions or get their completed petitions notarized at Cyd's Gourmet Kitchen Café in Junction City Shopping Center, Peoria, IL 61614 from 10 am until noon each Saturday in August, September and October, 2015. Leaguers will staff the events.

In addition the League will be at Lindy's Market, 110 Washington Square, Washington, IL 61571 on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 10 am-2 pm to collect signatures and hand-out petitions

The League is collecting signatures to get an Amendment on the November 2016 ballot so the voters can decide if an independent commission should draw the state legislative district lines. Registered voters are encouraged to come sign a petition, get a petition to collect signatures, or get their completed petitions notarized and turned in. Over 300,000 valid signatures will be required to place the measure on the Nov. 2016 ballot.

This good government effort would change the way district lines are drawn for the Illinois House and Senate, from politicians drawing the district lines to an independent commission drawing the district lines. This would stop gerrymandering and hopefully lead to more competitive districts and more candidates running.

Petitions also are available at most Chambers of Commerce offices and notaries are available at those locations. (Call first)

For more information, contact: League@lwvgp.org or www.MapAmendment.org websites.

The League supports an Illinois Constitutional Amendment for redistricting for the Illinois General Assembly, and states that the amendment is an important reform essential to bringing transparency, non-partisanship and independence to the redistricting process and ending incumbent protection and voter disenfranchisement.

MONEY IN POLITICS
FOR SALE: Our Political System. Does My Vote Count?
August 26, 6 p.m.

Money in Politics which we are studying nationally this year will be the topic of the first General Membership Meeting, at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26 at the auditorium of the Advanced Medical Transport building, 1718 N. Sterling.

Topics include: What is "dark money," "PAC's" vs "SuperPAC's", and the impact of the Citizens United ruling by the Supreme Court compared to their earlier rulings.

All of these impact how money is used to influence the outcomes of political campaigns. Anyone who would like to help the League study this issue, or is just curious, is invited to attend this meeting. If you are interested in helping with this study, contact one of the co-chairs: Irene Pritzker ipritzker@comcast.net or Terry Matthews buddyboy2004@sbcglobal.net. For more information, please contact Cheryl Budzinski at 253-9594 or c_budzinski@hotmail.com.

At 1 pm on Sept 9, Leaguer and retired ICC Political Science Professor James Thomas will speak about "**Transparency in Campaign Finance.**" Lakeview Library, 1137 W. Lake, Peoria, in the large meeting room

Money in Politics is an LWVUS study to look at our current national position and how court First Amendment decisions affect that position. (Our League consensus meeting takes place in January 2016.)

Anyone who is interested in learning about campaign finance and the public's right to know and would like to help keep elections fair is invited to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl at League@lwvgrp.com

Citizen Engagement Topic of September Drinks & Dialogue Program

Citizen engagement will be discussed at Drinks & Dialogue, a program hosted by the League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria.

It takes place at 5:30 p.m. **Wednesday, September 16** at the Hearth Restaurant, 4604 N. Prospect, Peoria Heights, IL. The public and League members are invited. Arrive early for networking.

The League believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation at all levels of government.

The dialogue about citizen engagement will be opened with comments from Peoria City Council Member Beth Jensen and facilitated by League members.

Drinks & Dialogue provides an opportunity for people to share opinions and ideas, ask questions and become more aware of local, state and national issues and the options for making change.

There's no cost to participate, and refreshments are available to buy.

Drinks & Dialogue is offered monthly, on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, for one hour starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Hearth Restaurant with local, state, and national political topics.

Thank you for your support!

We appreciate the financial contributions from all of our members, and want to acknowledge our 2015/16 Susan B. Anthony members:

<i>Beth Akeson</i>	<i>Shirley Belke</i>
<i>Cheryl & Ron Budzinski</i>	<i>Katherine Coyle</i>
<i>Farrell Davies</i>	<i>Jan & Emil Deissler</i>
<i>Pat Landes</i>	<i>Michael McCuskey</i>
<i>Mary McDade</i>	<i>Elliott Murray</i>
<i>Irene Pritzker</i>	<i>Kathie Raeborn</i>
<i>Sonni & Dick Williams</i>	<i>Sherry Hillman</i>

Voter Service information for Sept. 2015

Hurrah! League is in partnership with WEEK-TV to have the opportunity to host a forum for the candidates running for the seat in the 18th Congressional District. This will happen on Thursday, August 27 from 7- 8 pm on WEEK-TV.

From YOU, the league, we need:

- Interested members to be in the audience.
- Helpers to time, check the guest list in at the door.
- **You will need to be there by 6 pm if you are a volunteer.**
- **You will need to be there by 6:30 if you are in the audience and we must have your name on the list of those attending. email c_budzinski@hotmail.com to be added to the list. Bring a potential member, too.**

The 18th Congressional District Candidate Forum needs your questions.

League members and the public are invited to send their questions for the televised candidate forum to:

gregs@WEEK.com. Questions will be answered by each candidate. If you send a question for a particular candidate, that question will not be used. We will consider questions received by 3 pm on Wed, Aug.26.

Moderator Libby Allison will pose submitted questions as time permits. TV reporters from WEEK, WGEM, and WICS will also ask questions.

This 18th Congressional District candidate forum will have 60 second timed answer period for each candidate plus limited 30 second rebuttal for first answered. Whichever candidate is successful, will fill Schock's unexpired term.

We need for our new Congressman to know what we think is important to our district. That he will represent all of us "back home" not a political party's agenda. The candidates are Republican Darin LaHood of Peoria and Democrat Rob Mellon of Quincy.

Contact Mary Jane Crowell or Cheryl Budzinski if you are interested in attending or helping.

National Voter Registration Day will be observed on **Wed. Sept 23**. We are looking forward to registering new voters as a part of the nationwide 1 day event.

Do you have ideas where we should place registrars? We will pursue locating at both ICC campuses on that day. We will need 4 – 8 registrars. Are you available? Contact Mary JaneCrowell <crowellm@mtco.com>

-- Mary Jane Crowell and Cheryl Budzinski

THE SEPT. 10 GENERAL ELECTION in the 18th DISTRICT: Vote now and until Sept. 7 by mail using the Election Commission website: <http://www.peoriaelections.org/register-by-mail> or call at 309-494-VOTE (8683).

Other Dates: Early Voting: Aug. 3 - Sept. 9; Grace Period Voting: Aug. 14 – Sept. 9.

Register and vote at your polling place on Sept. 10.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Constitutional Amendments Study: Be on the committee or get ready for the meeting

Here is a rare opportunity to participate in a national study by the LWVUS to determine our position on amending the U.S Constitution. Since we are a member-driven organization, the position will be created based on local Leagues all over the country studying the issue, presenting information to their local Leagues, and then reaching consensus (sense of the group) on a series of prepared questions. All of those responses will determine the LWVUS position for action and advocacy on this issue.

The LWVUS boils it down to: *what are the shared values and beliefs within the League – what consensus do we have – regarding the circumstances that might allow or compel the League to endorse a constitutional amendment or an Article V Convention?*

The basic process is

Establish a committee by early September. The committee provides background material and consensus questions in the monthly VOTER for August through November. Note the materials and questions have already been prepared by LWVUS for us to review; the committee may decide to address all or some of the questions). The committee arranges a program for the November 5 General Meeting (6pm at AMT, 1718 Sterling). The program could include a guest speaker. After the presentation, on the same night, the committee presents published consensus questions for members only to discuss and come to consensus (the sense of the group expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions). Our League's responses are sent to the LWVUS, with those from Leagues all over the country, for the LWVUS to draft our organization's position on constitutional amendments. The LWVUS position then becomes the basis for action and advocacy.

So how can you participate and at what level do you want to participate?

A committee is being formed to present or arrange for a presenter for our November 5 You do not need to have any knowledge about constitutional amendments to be on the committee. It is expected that the committee will meet up to 4 times, with a schedule that works for all members. The committee will use the LWVUS Constitutional Amendments Study Guide (thank goodness we don't have to create our own from scratch) which can be accessed at: <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/constitutional-amendment-study-guide>. If you want to be on the committee or have questions about the process, please contact Pat Landes at landes.pat@gmail.com or 309-648-3504. She will be coordinating until co-chairs volunteer.

If you are not interested in being on the committee but are interested in the issue, you can read the study guide mentioned above, read the materials in the VOTER (the first article is in this VOTER at the end of this announcement, and/or attend in participate in the presentation and consensus process.

Please note that the study is broken into 3 parts, each having consensus questions:

- Part 1 – Considerations for Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals (5 consensus questions)
- Part 2 – Aspects of an Article V Constitutional Convention (6 consensus questions)
- Part 3 – Balancing Questions (2 consensus questions)

Here is the first article for background:

Synopsis of "Constitutional Amendments and the Constitutional Common Law"
Prepared by the LWVUS Study Committee on Constitutional Amendments, July, 2015.

This short paper presents a synopsis of the Chicago Public Law and Legal Theory Working Paper titled “Constitutional Amendments and the Constitutional Common Law,” written by Professor Adrian Vermeule, Professor of Law at the University of Chicago in 2004, available at <http://www.law.uchicago.edu/files/files/73-av-amendments.pdf> (accessed July 2, 2015).

The gist of the paper is that we should not be predisposed against using the Article V constitutional amendment process. Vermeule critiques the position attributed to Kathleen Sullivan and others that there should be a general presumption against amending the Constitution.¹ Such a view favors constitutional change through court decisions as opposed to constitutional amendments. He argues that this position, when widely adopted, exerts a drag on the amendment process that may do more harm than good.

By disadvantaging the amendment process, the court-centered view tips the balance in favor of constitutional change brought about through common law judicial decisions, which he believes hold equal or greater peril. The alternative to the amendment process is continuous reinterpretation of the Constitution left to the courts – that is, “to an ongoing constitutional convention whose delegates are all judges (and hence all lawyers).” He points out that *no member of another profession has ever been appointed to the Supreme Court*, although no law prohibits the appointment of others. Whatever the other advantages or disadvantages of the amendment process, it would presumably involve a more diverse group of actors.

In responding directly to Kathleen Sullivan’s paper, he argues that the case against the Article V process is based on a fallacy: that the alternative to constitutional amendment is stability, when in fact the alternative is continual judicial updating of the Constitution, which often produces as bad or worse results than the constitutional amendment process does.

Here are some of the prominent arguments that Vermeule counters:

- Amendments politicize the Constitution: so, he argues, do judicial interpretations of the Constitution, as we have seen in the continuing political struggle after *Roe v Wade* and as we may yet see with decisions on campaign finance, the Affordable Care Act, and same-sex marriage.
- Amendments clutter up the Constitution: the real alternative to lengthy text in the Constitution is to have a complex and tangled underbrush of judicial decisions. “A complex society will produce complex constitutional law; the only real question is whether it is good to outsource ... complexity... to the adjudicative process.”
- Amendments represent a “mutiny” against the Supreme Court: on the contrary, more amendments would leave less room for judicial flip-flops, over-rulings, creative and novel interpretations. An increased rate of amendment might actually legitimize the Court.
- Amendments have bad unintended consequences: judicial updating may also have unforeseen consequences, as may judicial inaction or amendment restraint. “Worry about perverse consequences ... yields paralysis, not safety.”
- Amendments should not encode “mere social policies” but should expand individual rights or improve government structure: why shouldn’t other types of amendments be considered as circumstances change? The fact that the previous 27 amendments can be largely categorized this way is “curve fitting” on a very small number of amendments.

In conclusion, Vermeule argues that both the amendment process and the judge-made constitutional law may be appropriate alternatives in different circumstances.

¹Kathleen M. Sullivan, *What’s Wrong with Constitutional Amendments, in GREAT AND EXTRAORDINARY OCCASIONS: DEVELOPING GUIDELINES FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE* 39 (1999)(emphasis added)[hereinafter Sullivan, *Constitutional Amendments*].

**Welcome August New Members:
Marcus Fogliano, Peoria; Susan Leighty, Peoria**



League of Women Voters
of Greater Peoria

623 W. Stratford, Peoria, IL 61614

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ON THE WEB:

www.lwvqp.org

IMPORTANT DATES

August 26. Money in Politics, 6 pm, AMT Building, 1718 N. Sterling, Peoria.

August 27. 18th District Candidate Forum, 7-8 pm, WEEK-TV.

**Sept. 3. Illinois Government Redistricting Reform, speaker Cindi Canary, 6 pm,
AMT Building, 1718 N. Sterling, Peoria.**

**Sept. 9. Money in Politics Committee, speaker Jim Thomas, 1 pm Lakeview Library, 1137 W. Lake, Peoria large
meeting room**

Sept. 10. Special General Election, 18th District Congressional Seat.

Sept. 14. LWV Board, noon, McClure Branch Library, 315 W. McClure, Peoria.

**Sept. 16, Drinks & Dialogue, Citizen Engagement, speaker Beth Jensen, 5:30 pm,
Hearth Restaurant, 4604 N. Prospect, Rd., Peoria Heights.**

Sept. 28. LOGO. Noon. Lakeview Library