



THE VOTER

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IMPORTANT DATES

**Dec. 3, 6 pm,
Money in Politics,
panel discussion**

**Dec.14, noon
LWV Board meeting**

**Jan. 7, 6 pm
e-Transparency
Project, Leonardo's at
War Memorial &
Wisconsin (contd. p.6)**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Plan to attend the panel discussion on Money in Politics on Thursday, Dec 3 at 6pm at the AMT Building. We need your questions NOW for the panelists emailed to: MoneyInPolitics@lwgvp.org Our panelists are very knowledgeable on this topic. They will broadly follow our LWVUS questions. But, what is your question on campaign finance? Citizens United? Advertising with inaccurate-misleading information? Should all money go through the candidates or parties? Hey where is my freedom of speech??

We need your help for these projects. Contact me, or the chair if you can help:

- To plan our dinner meeting and annual raffle -- decide location, meals, speaker, raffle items, etc.
- To survey one (or more) governmental websites looking at transparency. Survey questions are done and kick-off is Jan. 7, more details to follow. (Local Government Committee)
- To volunteer for a committee or next year's League board: Nominations Committee chair is Jan Deissler jdeissler@sbcglobal.net
- To work on our proposed budget for next year: Budget Committee, chaired by Gary Stella gstella1@amfam.com
- To review/update our League's by-laws

Our Jan 7 meeting will be the Kick-off for our LOGO Committee's e-Transparency Project. We will explain the survey and have a sign-up for you to choose which websites to survey. Join us and stay for pizza and beverage - location to be announced. (More information on page 5.

Our planning meeting to review **LWVUS positions and consensus on Money in Politics will be Saturday, January 16** at 9:30 with breakfast available at 9am. NOTE: this is a different date and location - IFT offices at 733 SW Washington.

Our Membership Committee has been working on a three year plan that includes: retention of members, reorganization of committee work, new ways to plan our activities to include trying different marketing opportunities, among other efforts to grow participation. Contact Pat Landes landes.pat@gmail.com or me if you will help.

(continued on page 2)

(President's Message, continued)

Thank you to Terry Knight for our new membership brochure. Looks great!

Thank you to Pat Landes, Farrell Davies, Marcus Fogliano, Sherry Hillman, Terry Matthews, and Dick Williams for their work getting our League to consensus on "Amending the Constitution." The results of our November 5 Consensus Meeting have been sent and acknowledged by LWVUS. Next the national Amending the Constitution committee will compile the information from Leagues across the U.S. and recommend a revised "position" to the LWVUS Board. The Board will approve, amend, or reject and send their recommendation to the LWVUS Convention in June 2016 for possible adoption by our delegates.

There is no Drinks & Dialogue in December. Have a wonderful holiday.

-- Cheryl Budzinski, President

MONEY IN POLITICS DEC. 3

A panel of experts will discuss the role of money in political campaigns and answer our questions at our League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria meeting, from 6 – 7 pm on Thursday, December 3, at the Advanced Medical Transport (AMT) auditorium, 1718 N. Sterling Ave, Peoria, 61604.

The panelists are: Anna Valencia, professional political strategist who was the campaign manager for Senator Dick Durbin's 2014 re-election campaign in addition to consulting on other political campaigns; Frank Mackaman, who is on the staff of The Dirksen Congressional Center in Pekin and past president of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress; and Brad McMillan, director of the Institute for Principled Leadership in Public Service at Bradley University and a former chief of staff to Cong. Ray LaHood. They will discuss democratic values with respect to campaign financing, first amendment considerations, and how campaign financing can be regulated. The event is free and open to the public. Bring friends!

The public and all Leaguers are invited to submit questions for the panel. Your questions for the panelists should be sent to MoneyInPolitics@lwvgp.org

Money in Politics

League of Women Voters Panel Discussion, December 3, 2015

I. Values and Interests to Protect Democracy

A. What should be the goals and purposes of campaign finance regulation?

Seek political equality for all citizens?

Protect representative democracy from distortion by big campaign spending?

Enable candidates to compete equitably?

Ensure all candidates have funds to communicate to public?

Ensure that corporate interests are included?

Provide voters with sufficient information to make informed choices?

Ensure public's right to know who is using money to influence elections?

Combat corruption and undue influence in government?

B. What is political corruption?

II. To what extent should First Amendment protections of free speech and freedom of the press apply in campaign finance regulation?

A. Should spending to influence an election by any of the following be limited?

- Individual citizens, including the wealthy?
- Political Action Committees sponsored by organizations?
- For-profit organizations?
- Trade associations?
- Labor unions?
- Non-profit organizations?
- Non-partisan voter registration and GOTV organizations, like LWV?
- Political parties?
- Candidates' money raised from their contributors?
- Candidates spending their own money?

B. Should spending by newspapers television, or internet communications through editorial endorsements, news coverage, and other communications directly to the public be limited?

III. Methods for Regulating Campaign Finance to Protect Democracy

Abolish SuperPACs other than a candidate's own single campaign committee?

Restrict direct donations and bundling by lobbyists?

Establish public funding for candidates?

- Voluntary public financing—candidates choose to participate & abide by reasonable spending limits.
- Mandatory public financing—candidates must participate and abide by reasonable spending limits.
- Public financing with spending limits on candidates.
- Public financing without spending limits on candidates.

How should campaign finance regulations be administered and enforced?

- Continue current Federal Election Commission structure with equal representation by the two major political parties.
- Change to an odd-numbered commission with at least one independent or nonpartisan commissioner.
- Change current structural problems and budget to allow FEC to meet its legislative and regulatory mandates.

Voter Service News: We had a delightful day on Nov. 20 as we registered 22 new citizens to vote after the Naturalization ceremony. We **invite** any and all of you to get trained to register new voters. Ask us how to do that. We will need more help in January as we prepare to have a registration day for 18 year olds in conjunction with their government classes at our high schools. We are looking forward to a month of little activity before the rush of registering voters and conducting forums early in the new year.
– Mary Jane Crowell

Springdale Management Authority Report, November 17, 2015, Regular meeting. All members except Mary Ardapple were in attendance.

- A representative of Insight Communications gave a presentation about a potential 100 foot tall cell tower to be placed near the cemetery administration and maintenance buildings for \$1500/month rent. This tower would be a special “uni-pole” flagpole style, with the antenna on the inside. It would have a 50 x 50 foot fenced area at the base to house related equipment and backup generator. The authority members plan to proceed with submitting this to the historic preservation commission for review in coming months.
- The potential sale of a new mausoleum, the first since 1937, is still proceeding. Soil core samples on the site have been completed. The manager hopes to finalize the sale within the next month or two. This will be a big cash inflow by Springdale standards.
- The 2016 budget was introduced, and initial details were discussed. It was implied that the budget was developed with a target to maximize the City deficit portion to \$250,000. In public comment, Pat Lewis stated that the budget should be developed based on the amount staff feels they need to succeed not an arbitrary limit. An audit RPF from Clifton Larson Allen for \$10,900 was approved.
- The cemetery manager reported that he has made contact with and is building a relationship with the manager of Oak Ridge cemetery in Springfield (site of Lincoln’s tomb). This cemetery has many similarities to Springdale, and he feels that he can learn from what they have done.
- On Nov 6. Mike Rucker, steward of the savanna restoration, was approached by a deer hunter who made intimidating comments. The authority directed the manager to contact law enforcement to make sure there was not hunting take place on the property.
- The manager is investigating switching to a different computer system, as he is not happy with the way service is provided. – - Rick Fox

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 Raiborn</i>
<i>Sonni & Dick Williams</i>	<i>Sherry Hillman</i>
<i>Bill Poorman</i>	<i>Pat Barton</i>
<i>Joan French</i>	<i>Tracy & Rick Fox</i>

Welcome November New Member!

Terry Kohlbuss, Brimfield

Metropolitan Airport meeting report, November 16, 2015

Board members in attendance- Crespo, Dawson, Henzmann, Jensen, Landwirth, and Stella.

Monthly report - air passengers through PIA, 53,840. If November numbers reach 49,795 we will pass last years numbers.

Peoria Metro Construction Co approved the following change orders for removal of existing out of service fire hydrant, modification to vault for a sidewalk, terminal expansion of a steel column support, realignment of sidewalk adjacent to fence line. The airport Tax Levy Review is to be placed on file for review, the personnel policy updates and financial statements were presented to the board. The director of operations presented an update on airport signage.

The flights to Houston are to resume in December. Director Olson will be interviewed on WMBD radio and several new ads for PIA will be airing soon. A new ad for PIA is presently being shown on TV.

-- Hettie Beers

Peoria County Board, November 2015 meeting, report. The board approved an interest free loan to a small family owned business that is awaiting state payment for services rendered. Payment has been held up by the state budget situation. In addition, the county and its employee bargaining unit have agreed on a new contract.

-- Elliott Murray

e-Transparency Project

In January and February the League will be collecting and compiling an e-transparency survey of local elected and appointed government bodies in Peoria and Tazewell County. It will focus on what information is available on the internet, and social media related to that government and its meetings, and how the public can engage in the process.

We are asking for volunteers to review information on the internet and to collect answers to a set of predetermined questions. Once we collect this information we will compile it and rate which bodies are best and worst. We plan to write the governmental units with our findings. Hopefully, we can interest local media in publishing the results. If you'd like to help, please contact Rick Fox via email at Rick@RickDFox.com.

Join us for our kick-off meeting and find out what information we are collecting and how you can help. It's at 6 pm on Thursday, Jan. 7, at Leonardo's LaGondola at Wisconsin and War Memorial. Food and beverages are available to purchase.

-- Rick Fox

PEORIA TOWNSHIP Interview, Oct. 27. Cheryl Budzinski and Elaine Hopkins met with Township Supervisor Joe Whalen and Caseworker Sheila Spalding about the township's operations. The League has been concerned because the township has high overhead for its programs and some expenditures lack detailed information.

They explained that there are two welfare programs, emergency assistance and general assistance. Emergency funds, with a budget of \$554,000 yearly, can be awarded to pay utility bills, rent to prevent homelessness, etc.. once a year to an individual who is a legal resident. The general assistance program at \$845,000 yearly requires an indigent individual to participate in an agency program to help find employment or other source of income such as Social Security programs. Various agencies such as Goodwill Industries, the Salvation Army Family Services and others offer these services. A goal is to remove barriers to employment. The individual can received \$325 monthly when participating as agreed. Most clients are African-American, they said. There are no statistics on the effectiveness of these programs.



League of Women Voters
of Greater Peoria

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ON THE WEB:

www.lwvqp.org

IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 3. Thursday, 6 pm. **Money in Politics. Panel discussion.**

Advanced Medical Transport (AMT), Auditorium, 1718 N. Sterling, Peoria. 61604

Dec. 14. Monday, noon, LWV Board meeting, McClure Branch Library

(No Drinks & Dialogue in December)

Jan. 7, Thursday, 6pm **e-Transparency Project** launch,

Leonardo's LaGondola at Wisconsin and War Memorial, Peoria 61603

Jan. 16, Saturday, 9:30 am meeting, (9am breakfast) Consensus on Money in Politics & LWVUS Position Review
IFT offices 733 SW Washington St, Peoria 61602

Feb. 4. Early voting and vote by mail begins. See <http://peoriaelections.org/>

Feb. 17. Grace period voting begins.

March 15. General primary election.