



# THE VOTER

Volume 69, Issue 10

October 2016

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## **IMPORTANT DATES**

Thursday Oct. 6, Gen.  
Meeting: Ballot  
Referendums, 6 pm  
AMT 1718 N Sterling,  
Peoria 61604

Wednesday, Oct. 19  
Drinks & Dialogue,  
Electing the President.  
5:30 – 6:30 pm. Lariat  
Steakhouse, Peoria

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Are YOU ready to vote?! You may need some explanation of the referendums on the ballot. Join us on Thursday Oct 6 for our informational meeting on the referendums. Included will be a Constitutional Amendment referred to as the "lock box" for transportation funding in Illinois; two Peoria County referendums; and the countywide school facility sales tax referendum. Please join us and ask questions.

There is one judicial race for Resident Circuit Judge in Peoria County. One Appellate Court judicial retention is on the ballot and two Circuit Court judicial retentions are on the ballot in both Peoria and Tazewell counties.

LWVIL encourages use of BallotReady.org. I have also used VoteSmart.org which researches candidates of all parties. On VoteSmart.org they ask candidates to fill out the "Political Courage Test 2016." (Fill in the candidate's name in search, then click on "positions" and you can see info about the Political Courage Test.)

The Illinois Bar Association will have evaluations at ISBA.org/judicialevaluations and ballotpedia.org does judicial evaluations but may not be ready yet.

Many thanks to Aaron Copes from the Peoria County Election Commission and Leaguers Connie Romanus, Marge & Bill Semmens, Mary Jane Crowell and other Leaguers for doing the Mock Elections in high schools. The state League had obtained a grant that allowed the Election Commission to get reimbursed for Aaron's mileage - good partnering.

***We will have an Open House for the public to meet the Congressional candidates for the 17th and 18th Districts. All have been invited, the challengers have accepted for Nov. 1 at 6:30pm.*** (No commitment or acknowledgement of the invitation from incumbents.)

Our candidate forum teams are completing two forums in Tazewell County besides the recently successful one in Peoria (62 participated there.) We purposely held the candidate forums early to encourage Early Voting which started September 29.

Candidate classes at ICC started Oct 3. Signup is online at: <http://cce.icc.edu/acp/> Big thanks to our moderators and panelists: Matt Jones, Ernestine Jackson, Gary Stella, Rick Cloyd, Allen Mayer, Gale Thetford, Beth Jensen, and Pat Landes.

This week you received a survey (on pink paper) in your membership packet asking what you might be interested in working on at the League. I hope you will respond to our requests for volunteers. I have met so many interesting people through League of Women Voters.

-- Cheryl Budzinski, President [president@lwvgrp.org](mailto:president@lwvgrp.org)

## League General Meeting on November 8 Ballot Referendums

**6 pm on Thursday, October 6**

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

**Several referendums will be on the Nov. 8 ballot in both Peoria and Tazewell counties.**

- Statewide Amendment to the Illinois Constitution referred to as the Illinois Transportation Taxes and Fees "lock box" Amendment would require those fees and taxes to be spent only on transportation expenses. Senator Dave Koehler will present information.
- In Peoria County, 1/4% sales tax (for a period not to exceed 15 years) to support transportation projects will be presented by County Administrator Scott Sorrell.
- In Peoria County, an advisory referendum that would increase property taxes by up to 0.5cents for providing assistance to military veterans, their families, and the families of deceased veterans and up to 1.0 cents for services delivered to its residents who are persons with developmental disabilities (presented by Scott Sorrell.)
- In Peoria County, the County Schools Facility Sales Tax is asking for a rate increase of 1/2% to be used exclusively for school facility purposes - presented by Dr. Chad Allison, Superintendent of IVC School District (Chillicothe.)
- Tazewell County has four referendums on various ballots, but they are not county-wide referendums. Those are: Rankin School Dist 98 to issue school building bonds; Mackinaw Fire Protection Dist. to increase property tax extension limitation (PTEL); Deer Creek-Mackinaw Community Unit School Dist 701 to issue school building bonds; and Deer Creek-Mackinaw CUSD 701 to increase Maximum annual educational rate. These Tazewell referendums will not be discussed at our meeting.

Please join us! Bring friends. The event is free and open to the public.

### **Voter Service for October 2016**

September was a wonderful Voter Service month! It was busy, but good. Our GOTV (Get Out the Vote) strategy included: the movie "Selma," mock elections in high schools, and 3 candidate forums.

There were 2 Mock Elections on the first day (Elmwood & Quest.) At Elmwood, 250 students voted in 40 minutes using 6 machines. The teacher brought one class at a time to vote. We gave instructions. They voted and went back to their class rooms. Students took applications to be election judges, and several registered to vote. It was amazing and heartwarming to be a part of this event. We also held mock elections at Quest, Brimfield, Farmington, Limestone, and Peoria Christian.

We held 3 candidate forums in Peoria and Tazewell counties with Terri Campion, Pat Landes, and Gary Stella moderating. Having educated voters is a mission of the League. And, we trust that our registered voters will take their responsibility as a citizen seriously and vote responsibly. We want a government, headed by a capable leader, who will diligently lead the people of this nation for the good of the nation.

On Friday, Sept 16, we registered 61% of the new citizens at the Naturalization Ceremony. That is the largest number we have ever gotten. That was a great day!

- by Mary Jane Crowell, Chair of Voter Service

## Who Really Elects the President?

**The League of Women Voters Drinks & Dialogue** October 19th meeting will discuss who really elects the President. In this unusual election cycle citizens are concerned about the process. Allen Mayer, member Peoria County Board, will be the presenter. Some issues that might be considered are:

- The presidential candidate who gets the most votes doesn't necessarily win.
- Several steps occur between the November 8 Election and Inauguration Day in January. What are those steps? How is the House of Representatives and Senate potentially involved?
- Does the US Supreme Court really have a part in the presidential election?

League members and the public are invited to participate in the dialogue on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30-6:30 at the Lariat Club, 2232 West Glen, Peoria.

League Member, Jan Deissler, will facilitate the dialogue. This is an opportunity to share opinions and ideas, ask questions and become more aware of local, state and national issues and the options for making change.

There is no cost to participate. Refreshments are available to purchase.

### **OBSERVER REPORT:** Peoria City/County Health Department, Sept. 19 meeting.

Joyce Harant continued her discussion of violence and its social determinants, and whether the Health Department has a role in sponsoring programs to deal with it.

The Illinois Dept. of Revenue's Liquor Control Commission. is looking to partner with other agencies to provide annual contract inspections of facilities including vending machines that dispense beer and liquor under refrigeration. This would be retail not wholesale businesses. Since the Environmental Health staff already do yearly inspections of these businesses and this program would reimburse the Health Department for these inspections it was agreed that the Health Dept should do this. It would require probably one more staff but the reimbursement would cover all or most of the salary cost.

-- Elliott Murray, Observer

### **OBSERVER REPORT:** Peoria County Election Commission, Sept 9, 2016 meeting

Computers have been upgraded to Windows 10.

Monthly rent at the new location is \$3200 which includes mowing grass and snow removal.

Re: Nov election:

- write-in deadline was 9/8/16.
- received 400 vote-by-mail requests to 9/9/16; they anticipate mailing about 700 ballots on 9/29.
- ballot was not quite done on 9/9/16
- Attorney will appear to certify the election judges on 9/12 before a judge.
- The constitutional amendment is planned to be first on the ballot. The "public questions" (referendums and advisory) will be last on the ballot.

Next meeting is Tues. Oct 11 at 2pm.

- Cheryl Budzinski, Observer

## Peoria Candidate Forum

Thank you to many volunteers who stepped forward for the Sept 24 candidate forum in Peoria. Terri Champion was a wonderful first time moderator. Connie Romanus coordinated the forum for her first time. Young Conrad Mayer, son of Leaguers Carey and Allen Mayer, worked with Brenda Wilson as the timers for the event. Thank you to Kathleen Leson, Irene Pritzker, JoAnn Thomas, and Ryan Hidden for their work on the forum.

## Welcome New Members

Alan Parades    Marlys Jenkin    Shirley Meils

## Thank you for your support

Since 100% of a regular dues' payment goes to the LWVIL and LWVUS, we need to raise money through fundraisers and donations to pay for our operating expenses. At this time we would like to acknowledge those members that selected the Defenders of Democracy membership category as a way to donate to LWVGP. Thank you for your additional support!

▪ **Carrie Chapman Catt members:**

- **Carol & Allan Hedeman**
- **Elliott Murray**
- **Lisa Uphoff**

▪ **Susan B. Anthony members:**

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| ○ Bettsey Barhorst                       | ○ Pat Landes             |
| ○ Shirley Belke (Life Member)            | ○ Kathleen Leson         |
| ○ Joyce Blumenshine & David Trachtenbarg | ○ Larry & Terry Matthews |
| ○ Jerry Brady                            | ○ Michael McCuskey       |
| ○ Cheryl & Ron Budzinski                 | ○ Mary McDade            |
| ○ Nancy Clemmer (Life Member)            | ○ Roberta Parks          |
| ○ Katherine Coyle                        | ○ Irene Pritzker         |
| ○ Farrell Davies                         | ○ Kathie Raiborn         |
| ○ Jan & Emil Deissler                    | ○ Debbie Ritschel        |
| ○ Tracy & Rick Fox                       | ○ Janet & Charles Roth   |
| ○ Sherry Hillman                         | ○ Carolyn Shepherd       |
| ○ Dave Koehler & Nora Sullivan           | ○ Sandy Stemler          |
| ○ Sue Ann Kortkamp                       | ○ Connie Torrey-Romanus  |
|  | ○ Sonni & Dick Williams  |

In order for the voters to have access to the 17th and 18th Congressional candidates willing to participate, our League is hosting an open house at 6:30pm, Tuesday, Nov.1. (For location, check the website or FaceBook.) Attending candidates will have 5 minutes to talk (no surrogates allowed). After all candidates have spoken, the public will have opportunity to talk to the candidates. This format is consistent with the League's Empty Chair Policy, and provides service to the voters.

- Cheryl Budzinski, President LWVGP



League of Women Voters  
of Greater Peoria

623 W. Stratford, Peoria, IL 61614

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ON THE WEB:

[www.lwvqp.org](http://www.lwvqp.org)

Vote early - avoid the lines.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Mondays Oct 3, 10, & 17 at ICC, Hickory Hall - Candidate Classes - register at [icc.edu/acp/](http://icc.edu/acp/)**

**Tuesday, Oct. 4, 5:45 pm, Tazewell County Candidate Forum, 5 Points Library, Washington, 61571**

**Thursday, Oct. 6, 6 pm, General Meeting, The Ballot Referendums, AMT, 1718 N. Sterling, Peoria, 61604**

**Wednesday, Oct. 19, 5:30 – 6:30 pm, Who Really Elects the President? Drinks & Dialogue  
Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen, Peoria, IL**

**Tuesday, Nov.1, 6:30pm Open House to meet the candidates for Congress. All have been invited.  
Challengers have accepted our invitation. Location TBA.**

**Thursday, Nov. 3, 6pm, General Meeting, Sentencing Guidelines, AMT, 1718 N Sterling, Peoria**

**Sept. 29 – Nov. 7. Early voting**

**Oct. 12 –Nov. 8. Grace Period Voting – you can register and vote, requires photo ID.**

**Nov. 8. General Election**