



The League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria

# THE VOTER

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November 2016

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## **IMPORTANT DATES**

Thursday Nov. 3, 6pm  
General Meeting:  
Sentencing Guidelines,

Wednesday, Nov. 2 and  
other dates: Opiate  
Abuse Discussions. See  
information on p. 3.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Crazy election this year - what and who are on the ballot and what is not. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to **Vote Early**. They can avoid the lines, get convenient parking, and possibly avoid bad weather. Information is available at (nonpartisan) [www.BallotReady.org](http://www.BallotReady.org) including the Bar Association information about the three judges up for retention.

Nineteen people participated in the candidate classes we held at Illinois Central College in October. This is twice the number who attended our classes in the 1990's. Our classes were moderated by: Matt Jones, Rick Cloyd, or Pat Landes. Two current or formerly elected panelists were at each session: Ernestine Jackson and Gary Stella; Gale Thetford and Allen Mayer; or Beth Jensen and Rick Cloyd. Much thanks to all of them for helping the next generation of candidates. And, thanks to our co-sponsors I.C.C. Adult Community Programs and NAACP Peoria Chapter.

Spring 2017 elections include city council, mayor, school board, I.C.C., and township races. So we plan to expand our candidate forum locations and will need additional people involved in setting the forums up and running them.

Consider encouraging people whom you think would do a good job in elected office to be a candidate. Most candidates have been encouraged to run for office by someone they know. Petitions are being passed now for the Spring elections.

Continued planning is happening for our "Public Ownership of the Water System" study. Our committee is working on the consensus questions at this time.

Our November 3 meeting on "Changes in Sentencing Guidelines" has Peoria States Attorney Jerry Brady speaking to us about proposed changes. Should be an interesting follow-up from last year's dinner meeting presentation on "Correcting Corrections in Illinois."

Please note that Drinks & Dialogue does not meet in November and December this year.

Cheryl Budzinski, President

**Voter Service for November 2016**  
by Mary Jane Crowell [crowellm@mtco.com](mailto:crowellm@mtco.com)

Besides our Federal election on November 8, we have another important date this month. On Friday, Nov. 18, there will be a Naturalization Ceremony at the Peoria Public Library downtown at 11 am. Following the ceremony, we will register the new citizens so they will be able to vote in the primary election in the spring of 2017.

If **YOU** are a qualified voter registrar and did not receive a note from me asking for help, please let me know. If you would like to be a registrar, we can help you accomplish that!

I continue to fondly remember our 7 mock elections that were conducted in September. With the help of the Peoria Election Commission and nine leaguers, we had about 2,124 students cast ballots. Now we break for a couple of months, until the primary election season in the spring.

### Nov. 3 General Meeting: Sentencing Guidelines

The November General Meeting will discuss changes in sentencing guidelines, at 6 **pm on Thursday, Nov. 3, at the Advanced Medical Transport (AMT) auditorium, 1718 N Sterling, Peoria 61604.**

Peoria County States' Attorney Jerry Brady will present information about many facets of the efforts to change sentencing guidelines. They include:

- Initiatives currently under consideration from: The Illinois State Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform; The Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council; and House Bill 6595 which would change penalties for drug crimes (sponsored by Rep. Barbra Flynn Currie.)
- The way sentencing changes become law in Illinois and get implemented.
- Who benefits from changes to sentencing guidelines, and whether changes will affect public safety.
- The biggest existing sentencing problems that should be studied or changed.
- How prosecutors, public defenders, law enforcement, county detention, and the courts will respond to changes.
- The possibility that sentencing changes may:
  - put more offenders in county jails, in lieu of prison because of shorter sentences which could be considered a cost shift from the state to a county.
  - require more parole officers, and whether the state would pay for this extra work.

The position of League of Women Voters of the US on sentencing policies is that alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses. The event is free and open to the public. Bring your friends.

#### Treasurer's Report

In the last month I have paid the liability insurance and e-filed our yearly IRS filing. This is a relatively quiet time of year at the Treasurer's post.

All seems to be going well here. I am looking forward to the elections and then the holidays.

-- Dick B. Williams, Treasurer

### **ABOUT THAT TRANSPORTATION AMENDMENT**

The Illinois League opposes the Transportation lock-box Constitutional Amendment on the November 8 ballot. In part, they said at the LWVIL Board meeting mid-October:

- "The Governor and General Assembly have failed to fulfill their constitutional responsibilities:
  - The Governor has not prepared and submitted a detailed budget to the General Assembly.
  - The General Assembly subsequent to the Governor's budget must appropriate public funds to meet the budget.
  - The Governor and General Assembly have also failed to create an adequate tax base necessary to generate revenue to pay Illinois' obligations."
- Cheryl Budzinski

### **What Do You Think About the Opiate Abuse Epidemic in our Area?**

Talk with other concerned citizens about Peoria's opiate abuse epidemic at a discussion moderated by Mike Kennedy, president and CEO of the Human Service Center.

- Wednesday, November 2 from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. at Peoria Public Library Lakeview Branch Lakeview Room
- Monday, November 7 from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. at Peoria Public Library North Branch McKenzie Room
- Thursday, November 17 from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. at Peoria Public Library Lincoln Branch Hot Air Balloon Room

To attend any of these discussions, please contact Roberta Koscielski at 309-497-2186 or [RobertaKoscielski@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us](mailto:RobertaKoscielski@ppl.peoria.lib.il.us).

These programs were funded by an Illinois Speaks micro-grant from the Illinois Humanities Council and are designed to support efforts to understand and find solutions for the heroin and opiate epidemic that is occurring locally.

### **LOGO REPORT: Peoria City/County Health Department, Oct. 17, 2016**

The Health Department is still working on CHIP -Community Health Improvement Plan. It must be coordinated with the other communities involved and have measurable objectives and strategies. In addition: there is a need to decide what data to collect..

--Elliott Murray

**LOGO REPORT: Springdale Cemetery Board, Oct. 18, 2016**

By Rick Fox

Mike Rucker gave a brief update on the Savanna, and the nearby woodland restoration. He reported the savanna is in good shape and was not too much work this year. The woodland area he feels will require a high level of ongoing work to maintain and to keep exotic invasive species at bay.

The authority had been previously sited for burning without a permit. They consulted with Peoria Chief Ed Olehy regarding the "burn pile" in the dump area...and are proceeding with his recommendations. They will get a burn permit from fire dept. in the future

Don Kettleborough completed painting second private mausoleum door (Hall Mausoleum – Boulder Valley). The Springdale Foundation supported this. The authority also installed new decorative sidewalks at the finished mausoleum. Additionally the foundation plans to pay for two more doors to be completed.

The manager proposed having staff use the skid steer that they own to grind and re-grade the road where needed instead of continuing to wait for some larger scale road project to materialized. There was some conversation among the authority of historic projects done before the current manager was involved that were able to accomplish short or medium term improvements, including a project where they were able to get a skilled operator to work at discount rates.

o Discussion of potential solutions for three long term cemetery problems ...road maintenance & repairs; Axiom Mapping; and records preservation. o Prospect Road Entrance Project update...

The manager has found a volunteer to scan the original "ledgers" to be able to create a copy to work from on a day-to-day basis and allow the original to be moved off-site to an archive site. He also proposed spending \$4,400 to add an un-mapped section of the cemetery into the Axiom system that they use to inventory grave sites. There was discussion of several other sections that still remain un-mapped, and the need to go back and pay this vendor each time they want to add a new section. .

The planned cell tower to be installed near the office is believed to have full approvals, and some of the fiber optic cables have been installed. The manager is still waiting to see the final contract.

The new entrance project is underway with completion expected within 5 to 6 weeks. There will be bids on landscape and electrical ready at next meeting.

Acquisition of an adjacent pet cemetery adjacent was being considered in previous executive session, but upon review of the site they determined it was not in character with the cemetery and will not proceed further.

**Vote Early - avoid the lines and easy parking**

Peoria County locations:

<http://peoriaelections.org/files/Early%20Voting%20Schedule%202016%20General%20Election.pdf>

Tazewell County locations:

<http://www.tazewell.com/CountyClerk/images/Early%20Voting%20Publication.pdf>

Woodford County locations:

<http://www.woodford-county.org/index.php?section=255&module=navigationmodule>

Welcome new members Sandy Anton and Amr Elsamny.

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



League of Women Voters  
of Greater Peoria

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ON THE WEB:

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

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Thursday, Nov. 3, 6 pm, General Meeting, Sentencing Guidelines, States Attorney Jerry Brady speaker**  
AMT Building, 1718 N. Sterling, Peoria, IL 61604.

**Wednesday, Nov. 2; Monday, Nov. 7; Thus., Nov. 17, 6:30 pm. Opiate Abuse Epidemic, Various locations,**  
see p. 3.

**Monday, Nov. 7. Early Voting ends.**

**Tuesday, Nov. 8. You can register and vote, requires photo ID, at your polling place.**

**Tuesday, Nov. 8. General Election 6am -7pm at your polling place**

**Friday, Nov 18, 11am. Registering new citizens to vote at Naturalization Ceremony**  
Peoria Public Library - downtown