



The League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria

THE VOTER

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IMPORTANT DATES

Sat., Jan. 14 General Meeting: Potluck breakfast & planning meeting.

Wednesday, Jan. 18. Drinks & Dialogue
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring elections bring excitement for Leaguers. These are the local contests, with the successful candidates deciding future services, fees, and real estate taxes for our communities. What are the candidates' priorities and what are your priorities? We are planning candidate forums.

There are contested races in the February 28 primary in Peoria (mayor, city council, and township) and in Washington (partisan-elected mayor and aldermen.) The April 5 Consolidated Election will include mayors, school boards, city councils, park district trustees, ICC trustees, and township races.

Some races such as park districts and Morton trustees & mayoral races have not turned in their petitions yet, so we don't know if those races will be contested.

The 2017 races are nonpartisan except the township races and the Washington mayoral and alderman races.

We will need League volunteers for Candidate Forums in February and March.

Please join us on **Saturday, January 14** for our potluck breakfast and planning meeting. We will consider whether to re-study or drop any of the state League's positions. And, we want to hear from members about topics for consideration as programs or to study in 2017-18. Ideas:

- Township government.
- Human trafficking (has been studied by other state and local Leagues).
- Judicial Evaluation (McLean League) and Court Watch (DeKalb League).
- Why convicted felons in some states never get to vote again.
- Getting more women and minorities to enter politics.
- Protecting voters.
- Safeguarding our natural resources.
- YOUR IDEA _____ .

Do you have a topic and/or speaker suggestion for our annual dinner? Please email your suggestion to me. Thanks.

I hope you enjoy the holidays with family and friends. We take a break in December, but will see you Jan 14 or for Drinks & Dialogue on Jan 18.

Cheryl Budzinski, President president@lwvgp.org

LOGO Report: Springdale Cemetery, Nov. 15, 2016

During the initial public comment period a neighbor voiced his concern about people coming in back gate, with his concerns including prostitution, drug dealing, vandalism. He accused the manager of asking him not to mention these concerns in the open meeting. He wants a better back gate.

A request from Peoria Academy of Sciences for use of Savanna for science Treasure Hunt was approved. The manager reported:

- *Prospect Road Entrance Project is proceeding, bid on next phase going out to be returned by early December.

- *Don Kettleborough has completed painting the Winkelmeyer mausoleum door. He will be starting on the Newton mausoleum soon. The foundation is funding this work.

- *Axiom software "Service Level Agreement" is being negotiated.

- *Replacement of Perry Street bollard that was broken by contractor working on front entrance hauling out a paver, is planned within the next few weeks. The authority directed the manager to get the bollard fixed, and investigate additional means to deter bad actors.

- *There was a grounds incident on November 2 near Rose Hill. A woman stepped in a hole covered with leaves, was taken away in ambulance.

The Authority discussed \$25,000 budget contribution from the Foundation. They left the question open whether they should request this formally from the Foundation.

The Authority began initial review of proposed 2017 budget. The proposed budget is available on their web site for public review.

-- Rick Fox, Observer



LOGO REPORT: Peoria City/County Health Department Nov., 14, 2016

The major presentation at this meeting was on the PCCHD working with other groups in "Cross Sector Partnerships", some already functioning and others in the process of being formed. For example "Partnership To Reduce Violent Crime". The lead agency is the Peoria Police Dept. and the partners are many including the PCCHD.

-- Elliott Murray, Observer

Sentencing Guidelines and Other Changes in the Criminal Justice System

“We as a community are effectively doomed unless we address crime and what it does to the community,” Peoria County State’s Attorney Jerry Brady said, during his talk on sentencing guidelines at the Nov. 3 League meeting. He explained the status of the 14 Points of the Governor's Commission to reduce the prison population.

He quoted The Rand Corporation, that every homicide costs a community \$7 million and affects many people. “The cost of medical care, prevention and incarceration is staggering,” Brady said.

Crime is so expensive that governments are looking at ways to reduce crime and its costs. Here are the amazing figures, according to Brady: the yearly cost for a prison inmate in Illinois is \$41,000, versus \$1,900 for probation.

The prison system in Illinois was built for 32,000 inmates, but now has 50,000, he said. Meanwhile prison may not deter crime. Within three years, half of the released inmates are back in prison or on parole. “We have got to address” recidivism, because of the high costs,” Brady said.

Long sentences are unlikely to deter crime, he said studies have shown. The U.S. Justice Department says the maximum impact of prison on an inmate occurs within five years of incarceration, so long sentences for non-violent offenders are a waste of funds, as they don’t rehabilitate the inmate.

Rehabilitation occurs when an inmate develops life skills such as reading, studies have found. Judges in Chicago are now studying a formula for risk assessment to determine the likelihood that the offender will reoffend, Brady said.

The criminal justice system is looking at various reforms to help inmates adjust to life outside prison, from providing state IDs to expanding transitional centers, Brady said. Judges also should have more discretion in sentencing, studies on crime have suggested.

State officials are looking at sending inmates with short prison sentences to serve the time in local county jails, Brady said, a cost shifting measure that will affect local taxpayers.

Meanwhile in Peoria, the homicide rate is down but gun violence remains the same, Brady said. “We are looking at evidence-based measures, especially on gun violence,” Brady said.

-- Elaine Hopkins



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!

Dave & Jami Berry

Lori Hanson

Matt Ryan

Courtney & Stephen McKinney-Whitaker

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!

- **ELEANOR ROOSEVELT MEMBER**

- Lori Hanson

- **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.lwvgp.org

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday, Jan. 14, General Meeting, Potluck Breakfast and Planning

Wednesday, Jan. 18, Drinks & Dialogue, 5:30 pm.

Tuesday, Feb. 28, Primary election.

Tuesday, April 5, Consolidated Election.

June 9 – 11, LWVIL Convention,

Hilton Garden Inn, Chicago O'Hare Airport, 2930 South River Road, Des Plaines.