



The League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria

THE VOTER

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January 2017

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IMPORTANT DATES

Sat., Jan. 14, 9:15 am.
General Meeting:
Potluck breakfast &
planning meeting. IFT
offices at 733 SW
Washington St., Peoria.

Wednesday, Jan., 18.
5:30 p.m.
Drinks & Dialogue,
"Dangers of Antibiotics"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you enjoyed the holidays and are energized for 2017!

January will include a second issue of the Voter which will include Candidate Forum information and include the Consensus Questions for the Water System. That should be in your inbox on or before January 12.

LWVGP will hold three candidate forums in February for the contested primary races in Washington and in Peoria. We plan to offer one forum in Washington for the mayoral and contested aldermen races.

One Peoria forum will include the mayoral candidates and Peoria Township Supervisor candidates. The other Peoria Forum is being scheduled to include the At-Large candidates and the 4th District candidates. It is difficult to include everyone's schedules and a meeting location, so still in progress.

Our General Meetings are normally scheduled for the first Thursday of the month. EXCEPT in January we have a tradition of a breakfast meeting on a Saturday morning for our planning meeting.

Saturday, January 14 is our pot-luck breakfast (free) meeting. League Secretary Lisa Uphoff has arranged for us to use the IFT-AFT offices. Great space, thanks. Pat Landes is our meeting coordinator. Dick Williams will lead our efforts to review our state League positions. (For each area, we say whether to "Retain" "Restudy/update" or "Drop" each position.

The Positions in Brief are included in this Voter with a link for the full document.) Farrell Davies will encourage identification of meeting topics and study topics for our local 2017/18 planning. Join us for the mix of social and planning.

League members enjoy **registering voters**. If you are not a registrar or need to refresh your skills, join me on **Tuesday, January 24 from noon - 1pm** at the Peoria Election Commission offices at 542 SW Adams. I am renewing my credentials and you may take training at that time, too. Please RSVP to me so that Debbie has enough packets. Cheryl 253-9594 or c_budzinski@hotmail.com.

Cheryl

Legislative Interviews 2017

Every year the LWVIL Issues Committee encourages local Leagues to interview their state legislators. The Issues Committee determines the topics and provides background information and the questions.

The primary purpose of the interview is to strengthen the line of communication with our legislators. The emphasis should be on an exchange of views and information. We report back to the LWVIL Issues Committee the legislators views on those issues.

The questions and background information will be available mid-January. We will have 3-4 members - some new members with "seasoned" members- interview each area legislator who agrees to participate.

Prior to the interview, the League Team decides who will lead on each question. There are usually 6-9 questions. Discussion may include why the legislator disagrees with our position.

If you are interested, please tell me at the Jan 14 meeting or email me. Thanks. -- Cheryl

DEFENDERS OF DEMOCRACY.

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 members:**

- **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

Program Planning Meeting for State and our Local LeagueBring Your Ideas.

Program planning may not sound important, but it is the foundation for all action that Leagues take. When we initiate actions to make democracy work, we do so only after study (being informed) and consensus (speaking with one voice) on an identified position resulting from our study.

Part of the strength and credibility of the League is that we are member-driven, our positions are developed by the members. Program planning provides the mechanism for our voices to shape the direction and focus on activities on the local, state, and national levels.

Please have your voice heard and join us at **9:30 am on Saturday, January 14**, as we influence our state and local positions. The meeting will be held at **IFT offices at 733 SW Washington St. Peoria**.

Prior to the start of the planning session, we hope you can join us for a pot-luck breakfast at **9:15 am**. If you are able to bring a dish, please email Cheryl at c_budzinski@hotmail.com. Thank you.

Our planning session at 9:30 has two parts - program review of the LWVIL (state) positions and the creation of possible topics for next year's local meetings. We hope you join us as we all provide feedback to the LWVIL on state positions and create possible topics for our local League for 2016/17.

Prior experience in the process is not needed! Also note that background materials for the planning session are being provided here in the VOTER and also at the meeting. We look forward to seeing you! If you can't attend on Jan. 14, send your topic ideas to: c_budzinski@hotmail.com

Background

Leagues follow national (LWVUS) program, state (LWVIL) programs, and local (LWVGP) programs, topics, and studies. It is important to remember that no League can take action unless that action is supported by a position developed through the planning process. Local Leagues this year will look at the adopted positions of our state League to suggest whether to **retain, restudy, or drop** any of our current state positions and may propose new study topics. By early March all of the Leagues in Illinois submit their suggestions to the LWVIL Issues Committee who will submit their findings to the LWVIL Board. At the June 2017 LWVIL Convention the delegates vote on the proposed changes and the Action Foci for 2017-19.

A good example of how we are member driven, was the action item submitted by our LWV Greater Peoria -the Redistricting topic in 2015 for Action Foci. We lobbied all the local Leagues in Illinois to include that topic. LWVGP handed out clip boards with petitions, instructions, and suggestions to collect signatures for redistricting to all delegates at the 2015 LWVIL Convention (using a generous donation to fund those.)

Our local League planning will result in both identifying possible study topics and listing topics for presentation for our General Meetings, Drinks & Dialogue, and our Annual Dinner meeting/fundraiser.

If members want to "study" an issue and if someone will chair the committee and others will participate, we can study a local issue. Our League created an eTransparency Project in March 2016.

In 2016-17 we have been studying private vs. public ownership of the water company, based on member input at last year's program planning meeting. Examples of other local League studies/action within their community include Court Watch, Affordable Housing, Mental Health, Consolidation of Services, and Township Consolidation/Elimination.

Interesting meeting topics: Immigration, Oregon & Washington's Voting without Polling Places, "Top Two" Primary Elections (CA), Human Trafficking, State Budget Effect Locally, State Budget Solutions, The Shriver Report, Refugees, etc. What are your topic ideas?

-- Pat Landes

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IN ILLINOIS June, 2015-17 POSITIONS IN BRIEF

These statements are summaries of our positions. Before using a LWVIL position at the local and/or regional level, Leagues should refer to the complete position printed in *Where We Stand*, including background and previous action.

GOVERNMENT POSITIONS: LWVIL takes action on the state level in the following public policy areas based on these LWVUS positions: Voting Rights; Election Process including apportionment, campaign finance and selection of the President; Citizen Rights including citizen's right to know, citizen participation, individual liberties and public policy on reproductive choices; and Congress and the Presidency. (See LWVUS Impact on Issues.)

CONSTITUTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION AND AMENDMENTS: LWVIL supports implementation of provisions for governmental change in the Local Government Article, and amendments to achieve merit selection of judges; a graduated income tax; the indirect statutory initiative and the recall of elected judges. The League maintains its support for positions already achieved in the Constitution but which may require effort to preserve.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE: LWVIL supports expanded citizen initiative powers to change the structure of county government. Petition requirements for citizen-initiated change should be a percentage of actual voters in a recent jurisdiction-wide election. The League supports changes in the Illinois County Executive Act to provide a clear separation of powers between the legislative and the executive branches and easily understood referendum language.

CONSOLIDATION OF GOVERNMENTAL UNITS AND SHARING OF MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES: The League of Women Voters of Illinois supports the efficient and effective operation of government. Consolidation of governmental units and the sharing of major governmental services may be a way of promoting the efficient and effective operation of government. In achieving this goal, the League supports a cooperative and transparent process, in which citizens have sufficient and timely information with which to make informed decisions about proposed actions, and well-defined channels for citizen input and review. Administrative and fiscal efficiency should be included in the criteria by which local governments consider whether to consolidate or share major services. *Where We Stand* lists a series of criteria to be considered.

STATE ELECTION LAWS: LWVIL supports uniform election laws and procedures throughout the state to ensure the integrity of the election system and opposes term limits for members of the General Assembly. The League believes that a good election system should provide stability and continuity of governance and should produce a legislature that addresses the problems of society effectively. It should be resistant to both outright fraud and other forms of political manipulation.

STATE REDISTRICTING: The League supports a redistricting process which is timely, orderly, and meets the basic criteria relating to population, compactness and contiguity and the requirements of the 1965 U.S. Voting Rights Act and subsequent amendments.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS POSITIONS: LWVIL takes action on international relations issues only at the request of the LWVUS. These positions include: United Nations, Trade, U.S. Relations with Developing Countries, Arms Control, and Military Policy and Defense Spending.

NATURAL RESOURCES POSITIONS: The Illinois LWV takes action on the state level in the following areas based on these LWVUS positions: Agriculture Policy; Environmental Protection and Pollution Control; Natural Resources; Public Participation; and Resource Management.

LAND USE: LWVIL supports development of a comprehensive land use policy for Illinois that provides for orderly growth while preserving the environment, conserving natural resources and providing needed open space. The State should identify, plan for and have the final authority over key and critical areas within the state. Standards and guidelines for land use should be developed by the State with local governments making purely local decisions. At every stage there should be citizen input. The State should plan for adequate supplies of low and moderate income housing with every

community providing a percentage under some kind of fair share plan. The League favors regional planning agencies with mandatory and continuous funding from local, regional, and state sources. The League supports state enabling legislation for development impact fees.

LARGE-SCALE LIVESTOCK FACILITIES: The League supports strict regulation of large-scale livestock facilities on the state, regional and county levels to include statewide environmental controls, public hearings prior to siting and regional and/or county control of siting.

PESTICIDES: The League supports reduction of exposure to all pesticides. The use of non-toxic alternatives should be encouraged.

SOCIAL POLICY POSITIONS: LWVIL takes action on the state level under the LWVUS Social Policy position to secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. The LWVUS position promotes social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

LWVIL takes action on the state level based on the following LWVUS Social Policy positions: Equality of Opportunity including ratification of the Equal rights Amendment; Support for equal access to education, employment and housing; Fiscal Policy; Health Care, Immigration, Meeting Basic Human Needs, Child Care, Early Intervention for Children at Risk, Violence Prevention, Gun Control and Urban Policy.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES: The League believes that the State should play the leading role in meeting the needs of children and their families. This responsibility applies across systems of care regardless of age or legal status. The State has the primary role in funding to ensure that quality services are equitably available throughout the state. The League supports a continuum of community-based services that strengthens and preserves families and fosters healthy growth and development of children. Prevention and early intervention should have high priority. The League supports a juvenile court system that provides opportunities for effective protection, treatment, and rehabilitation. Detention should be reserved for delinquent children who meet professional screening criteria and provided separately from adult programs. The League opposes the automatic transfer of children to the criminal court and the death penalty for children.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: LWVIL supports the increased use of intermediate sanctions in the community. Judges should retain discretion to choose between imprisonment and probation for most offenses. The League supports a sufficient number of trained probation officers and other court personnel, prompt trials, enforcement of jail standards and a bail system that does not rely on financial ability as a criterion for pretrial release. Correctional services should conform to national professional standards and offer programs and services for self-improvement. The justice system must be adequately funded to carry out its goals. State funds should emphasize community sanctions over the construction of prisons. LWVIL supports expanded prevention and treatment programs to ease the burden on the criminal justice system.

DEATH PENALTY ABOLITION: The League supports abolition of the death penalty in Illinois.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION: LWVIL supports legislative controls to stop the proliferation of handgun ownership and irresponsible use; and restricted access to automatic and semiautomatic assault type weapons.

IMMIGRATION: The League supports State and local community efforts to provide orientation and counseling services for all immigrants. Provisions for educational programs and materials on rights in the workplace for all workers, driving certificates for undocumented workers and the availability of auto insurance for holders of certificates.

The League opposes deputizing state and local police to enforce immigration laws, and ordinances that penalize landlords for renting to or prohibit issuance of business permits to the undocumented immigrants; extending the right to vote to the undocumented immigrants.

INCOME ASSISTANCE: The League supports income assistance and supportive services for all low-income individuals and families.

MENTAL HEALTH: The League supports a comprehensive and coordinated system of treatment and

rehabilitation services for adults and children with mental illness. There should be adequate funding, planning, program standards, and personnel training requirements for both state facilities and community programs. The League supports a broad array of adequate and accessible community services. Although primary responsibility should rest with the state, funding from local, federal, and non-governmental sources should be encouraged. A system of local boards to levy taxes, administer all funds, and to plan and coordinate services should be required throughout the state. The State should require local governments to provide in their zoning ordinances for residential programs for persons with mental illness.

SCHOOLS: LWVIL supports a system of high quality elementary and secondary schools for all children in Illinois, which provides for local control of school program and budget within minimum program requirements set by the State. The State should provide leadership to local communities for program development and should set standards for recognition and accreditation of schools. Educational programs' effectiveness should be evaluated regularly. The League favors minimum standards for graduation and promotion of students. LWVIL supports increased professionalism for teachers including stringent teacher preparation standards, comprehensive teacher and principal evaluations, changes in tenure, and increased teacher compensation. The State should assume the major responsibility for funding public schools and guarantee an adequate level of financial support. Schools should be provided stable, reliable, and adequate revenue through a combination of federal, state and local sources.

LWVIL supports accountability, transparency, and equity in the use of public funds for education, including charter schools. Charter school authorizers should evaluate the performance of existing charters before granting new charters or approving additional campuses. The authority for approving and renewing charters should reside exclusively in the local school board.

STATE FISCAL POLICIES: The League supports a diversified revenue system, relying principally on a combination of broad-based taxes and user fees, that is equitable, progressive, stable, responsive and simple.

Adopted by Delegates at the June 2015 Convention

- * Criminalization of Mental Illness
- * Gun Violence Prevention .
- * Fiscal Policy – with a focus on education and social needs.
- * Redistricting.
- * Water – with a focus on nutrient loss.

To see the entire "Where We Stand" document, go to:

http://www.lwvil.org/uploads/1/5/9/8/15985276/where_we_stand_long_version_15_17_web.pdf

LOGO REPORT: Peoria City County Health Department Board, Dec. 12, 2016.

Several actions taken at this meeting were intended to bring the PCCHD into more interaction with other Public Health groups.

1. They will try to set up meetings with Tazewell and Woodford Counties Boards of Health.
2. They will look at joining The Root Cause Coalition. This is an organization founded in Oct. 2015, which seeks to improve the health status of individuals and communities.
3. They will continue contact and discussions with The U of IL School of Public Health.

-- Elliott Murray

We are looking for **proposals to re-design our League's website**. Needs to be simpler, probably using Weebly, allow multiple members to update, easily accommodate photos, calendar, uploading newsletter, etc. If you are skilled and interested, send a proposal to: president@lwvpg.org

(LWVIL News) General Assembly Veto Session Update

The Good, the Bad and Still No Budget

During the Veto Session, the General Assembly passed and the governor signed into law the **Future Energy Jobs Bill, SB 2814**. This new law combined two pieces of legislation, one of which, the Clean Jobs Bill, LWVIL strongly supported. This compromise bill contains many of the policies from that bill, and added the rate increases Exelon requested to support two nuclear energy plants. The Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition has been working on this legislation for many years. Its passage will lead to the creation of thousands of jobs throughout our state in a growing clean energy sector as well as positive actions to combat the threat of climate change. It will modernize our energy policy and renew Illinois' ability to be at the forefront of renewable energy creation in the country.

Some of the clean energy provisions in this bill include:

- Incentivizing utility companies to achieve more energy efficiency savings for customers.
- Requiring \$25 million per year to be spent on programs to help low-income homes become more efficient.
- Fixing the renewable portfolio standards (RPS) that will lead to 3,000 Megawatts of solar development and 1,300 Megawatts of wind development. Half of the solar projects will come from panels on homes and businesses. That's enough solar and wind to power almost 1 million homes.
- Creating the state's first community solar program which allows those not able to build solar on their roof to subscribe to a shared project in their community.
- Investing in low-income programs, which include solar development and job training in economically disadvantaged communities.
- Encouraging between \$12 to \$15 billion in private investment to come to Illinois to create new jobs.

LWVIL strongly supported the override of the Governor's veto of **SB 250**, the **Automatic Voter Registration** bill, which was originally passed out of the General Assembly with overwhelming bipartisan support. The governor vetoed it and the override failed. The bill would have ensured that potentially 2 million eligible voters who are not currently registered to vote, would be automatically registered. The veto override vote was along party lines and some members were not present for the vote.

Two other LWV supported bills failed to survive the Governor's veto:

- **HB 4351**, the Community Care Protection/Determination of Need Score bill would have prevented severe cuts to community based home services for over 40,000 senior citizens.
- **HB 5931** would have increased wages for Direct Support Providers, who provide services to people with disabilities, to \$15 per hour. Many make less than \$10 per hour for doing challenging work, which makes it incredibly difficult to recruit and retain quality providers to help people with developmental disabilities live integrated independent lives in community settings.

In addition, no budget was introduced and the stop gap budget was not extended. LWVIL Executive Director Mary Schaafsma and LWV MAL Unit in Springfield members attended the press conference hosted by the Responsible Budget Coalition to highlight the serious damage the lack of a budget is causing our state.



League of Women Voters
of Greater Peoria

623 W. Stratford, Peoria, IL 61614

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ON THE WEB:

www.lwvqp.org

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday, Jan. 14, 9:30 am. Meeting, "Potluck Breakfast and Planning," Breakfast at 9:15 am.
IFT Offices, 733 SW Washington St., Peoria.

Wednesday, Jan. 18, 5:30pm Drinks & Dialogue, "Dangers of Antibiotics"
Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen Ave., Peoria.

Tuesday, Jan. 24, Become a Voter Registrar, Noon – 1 p.m. RSVP required to Cheryl
Peoria Election Commission offices at 542 SW Washington St. Peoria.

Thursday, Feb. 2, 6pm. General Meeting on Water Study - Private or Public Ownership.

Saturday, Feb 18, Consensus Meeting on Water Study (members only participate).

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, IL.