



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

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Board of Directors 2018-19

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Important Dates

5:30-7 p.m. Thurs., Feb. 7.
Electoral College Reform, AMT,
1718 N. Sterling, Peoria.

12:30-1:30 Mon., Feb. 11.
LWVGP board meeting, Peoria
Public Library downtown.

5:30-8 p.m. Wed, Feb. 13
Peoria City Council Candidate
forum, Peoria Public Library
downtown.

5-6:30 p.m. Wed., Feb. 20.
Drinks & Dialogue at the Lariat,
2232 W. Glen. Peoria arts scene
is the topic.

6-7:30 p.m. Thurs., Feb. 28
Peoria Height Candidate forum,
Village Hall.

President's Message

Electoral College Reform:

'Should We Abolish the Electoral College and How to Do It'
5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7

We are extremely fortunate to have two guest speakers join us to present a program on Abolishing the Electoral College. Rosemary Heilemann and Bonnie McNeill of the League of Women Voters of Wilmette will present a program they helped develop for the national League convention last year.

Delegates at that national convention decided abolishing the electoral college should be the focus for 2018-2020. As a result, the Illinois League's Electoral College Committee developed this program. The national League position supports direct popular voting method for election of the president and vice president, and has decided that the Electoral College should be abolished.

Please plan to attend this special program and bring a guest. We will host a reception when you may meet our guest speakers from 5:30 to 6 p.m. followed by the program from 6 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 7, at the Advanced Medical Transport Auditorium, 1718 N. Sterling in Peoria.

Looking forward to seeing you on February 7th!

Farrell Davies
LWVGP President

DRINKS & DIALOGUE: Making Peoria an International Arts Destination

The Greater Peoria League of Women Voters will discuss what's new on the Peoria arts scene at its Drinks & Dialogue event from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20, at the Lariat Steakhouse, 2232 W. Glen Avenue, Peoria.

Prominent local artists Eileen and Doug Leunig, along with ArtsPartners Executive Director Jenn Gordon, will lead the discussion on Making Peoria an International Arts Destination. Find out what's new in the Peoria arts scene, as well as how this can impact our city culturally and economically. In addition, we'll learn about the logistics of this effort and how organizations and individuals can participate.

The event is free and the public is invited. Refreshments are available for purchase. Social time is 5 to 5:30 p.m. Bring a friend and join us!

— Connie Romanus

VOTER SERVICE, February

'Tis the season for candidate forums! There is a primary election coming on Tues. Feb 26. Read the article on the importance of your vote.

We are going to hold a forum for the 14-candidate race for Peoria At-large City Council. Remember that this race includes our cumulative voting system. The forum will be from 5:30 to 8 p.m., Wed., Feb 13, at the Peoria Public Library Downtown Branch.

Many of you have already received a plea for help! We are going to be asking for more help. After the primary election, we will be conducting forums for:

Peoria Heights races from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, at the Village Hall.

East Peoria mayor and commissioners at the Fondulac Library (to be announced)

Peoria Park Board and Peoria School Board races at ICC North, possibly on Mar. 14.

Tazewell races at Washington High School on Mar. 16 or 23.

Do take note of our press releases and our pleas for help for these events.

For the registrars and would-be registrars we have a tentative 2019 schedule of ceremonies: 11 a.m. Friday, March 22 at the Peoria Public library; May 17; July 19; Sept. 20; Nov. 15. Check your calendars and mark them if you can help.

I do send an email to my group contact about two weeks before each event. If you are not on my group contact list, and would like to be please tell me and give me your email address.

— Mary Jane Crowell, Voter Service Chair

GET INFO AND VOTE!

The level of government that impacts most people's lives is not the federal government or even the state. It is local government. Do you have a pothole in front of your house? Call your city councilperson. Does your library need more computers? Call someone on the library board. Have an idea to improve your child's education? Contact your school board. With today's emphasis on diversity, the easiest level of government to attain diverse representation is the local level. Fewer voters need to be convinced a particular candidate should be elected.

On Tuesday, February 26, there will be a primary election for City Council in Peoria. Fourteen candidates will be reduced to ten. Then on Tuesday, April 2, elections will be held countywide for offices ranging from Peoria City Council, Park District, and School Board, to races in Dunlap, Peoria Heights, Tazewell County, and ICC Board.

At all levels of government, it is the citizens' obligation to study the candidates to determine who would best represent them. How is this possible when local candidates usually do not have the monetary backing to run television and radio ads? Here in the Peoria area there are several ways to learn about the individuals running for office.

First, most candidates have websites where they list their qualifications and other things they wish the voters to know about them. Candidates often have flyers that list the same types of information. Many candidates hold "meet and greets" or "town hall meetings" to allow voters to know them on a more personal level.

To acquire more balanced knowledge, voters must look for information that includes more than one candidate for the office in question. Local newspapers carry the answers to questionnaires and interviews with those candidates. Also, the League of Women Voters and other civic organizations hold candidate forums where questions important to the audiences can be answered by those who want their votes. Finally, check out the League's Voter's Guide. It is available at IllinoisVoterGuide.org <http://IllinoisVoterGuide.org/>. But most important, vote. Remember that two years ago, two separate elections in Peoria were won by a single vote.

— Irene Pritzger

PEORIA CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL COMMITTEE, December

The Peoria City County Landfill Committee met at 3 p.m. Jan. 16, at Peoria City Hall with Chairman Steve Morris presiding.

Karen Raithel, Peoria County Sustainability and Resource Conservation Director announced that recycling drop-off locations at the Northpoint Shopping Center off of Knoxville Avenue and at Sterling Bazaar off of Sterling Avenue would soon be closed and that Peoria residents should use their city-wide option of curbside recycling pick-ups.

The first part of the Foth Engineering report covered continued monitoring of pollutants. Repeated incidences of acetone were decided to be false positives from contamination in lab testing and not actually showing high landfill levels. Split samples were done for over a year and sent to more than one lab to determine this. High nitrate levels were reported to be from other than landfill sources as only up-gradient monitoring wells had these results and not testing down-gradient. Dissolved chromium concen-

trations were slightly over limits and further review may result in a request for higher permitted limit levels.

About 20,000 gallons of landfill leachate was transported offsite to the Greater Peoria Sanitary District from November through December. A total of 97,500 gallons has been hauled off the landfill for 2018.

Several gas flare and other repairs were needed due to weather problems.

Emily Ambroso, City of Peoria Public Works Department engineer, was introduced as she will be attending Landfill Committee meetings for the City.

The financial report showed revenues lower than expected due to less waste received.

Peoria Disposal Company gave an update on plans for the Vicary Bottoms wetland restoration and that they will be needing to get U.S. Army Corps approvals as excavations for the wetland area have been determined to be deeper than expected. A solar farm on landfill property was mentioned as still a possibility but nothing specific is available yet.

— Joyce Blumenshine, Observer

PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY, January

No meeting of the Board of Commissioners held in January; notice of cancellation of Jan. 24 meeting is currently posted. Meetings changed to 4:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month. Schedule of Board meetings for 2019 are posted on website. Next meeting will be Feb. 4 at The Frank Campbell Community Center, 312 S. Merriman. I will attend February meeting and continue to monitor PHA website for update on meeting minutes and Board meeting packets.

— Connie Romanus, Observer

PEORIA COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION, January 8

The Peoria County Board of Election Commissioners met on Tuesday Jan. 8, with Commissioner Sandra Burke absent. During the discussion of bills, it was learned that the many miscellaneous charges listed would finish paying all expenses from the November election.

Early voting for the primary election on Feb. 26 will only be held in two locations: the election office and the downtown library. The only race on the ballot will be for Peoria City Council. Early voting will begin Jan. 17 and run until Feb. 25. State statute requires that the election office be open for voting during that whole period. The downtown library will only be open Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 21-23. The Federal Companies was the low bidder for delivering the equipment to polling places.

In his report, Director Tom Bride said that he had already received requests for three overseas ballots and 15 to 20 mail-in ballots. He would be starting work very soon on the general election ballot

because it will be much more complicated. There will also be races for school districts, park districts, a fire district, and villages. The new pollbooks should be arriving soon, so training will begin, first for office staff, then for judges.

Commissioners Mark Ketterer and LaColis Reed presented their report on perceived issues from the November election and how to improve logistics for future elections. The first issue was a backup of cars at the doors to drop off election results. They recommended not allowing parking in the lot, having five or six cars unloaded at once, and using auxiliary police to manage the traffic flow. Limestone ROTC could also supply workers to help with the unloading. There should also be three tables with six workers for check-in. These could also be Limestone ROTC members. A second issue was that the web page seemed not to be working. That has already been discussed with the County IT personnel.

Finally, only workers and designated observers should be allowed in the tabulation area. Commissioners would be responsible for removing people who do not belong.

— Irene Pritzker, Observer



League of Women Voters
of Greater Peoria

623 W. Stratford, Peoria, IL 61614

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ON THE WEB:

www.lwvqp.org

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