

President's Message

## Opportunities to get involved

As we are in the middle of local government elections, it is important to recognize how these races impact our lives. Voting in local elections is as important as voting in national election, perhaps more so.

Local governments determine how taxes are levied, ordinances written and services provided in our communities. The League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria has long advocated for citizen involvement, good government and transparency. Forums are being held for both the Primary races and the April 6 General elections. Check out candidate information and be an informed voter. Then exercise your right to participate in local government and vote in the upcoming elections. Let's keep that voter momentum going!

Another way to get involved in local government is to attend a public meeting as an Observer. The League has been active in this with the Observer Corps. Consider joining us and becoming an Observer in your community. A visit to the website of any government body should list elected or appointed members, meeting dates and times, agendas, prior meeting minutes and guidelines to address the members, in addition to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) contact. We hope to sponsor a training session later in the spring with other Central Illinois Leagues. This is a great way to get involved and share information and keep up to date with local government actions.

———— Constance Romanus, LWVGP President

### Important Dates:

**12:30 p.m. Mon., Feb. 8:** LWVGP Board meeting, via Zoom.

**Tues., Feb. 23:** Primary election.

**Feb. 20 & 27:** LWVIL Issues Briefing. (Register at [lwvil.org](http://lwvil.org)).

**8 p.m. Thurs., Feb. 25:** Live candidate forum for Peoria Mayoral finalists on WTVP & WCBU.

**5:30 p.m. Wed., March 3:** Washington Mayoral and Ward 3 Candidate forum, via Zoom.

**Wed., March 24:** "Tea for Three" virtual event. (Register at [lwwgp.org](http://lwwgp.org)).

## VOTER SERVICES

Voter Services provided the community with a Peoria Mayoral Candidate Forum on Jan. 21. All five candidates running in this primary race participated. Many thanks to our partners in this undertaking: WCBU Peoria Public Radio and the Peoria Public Library. This event was broadcast on WCBU and is available on the League's Facebook page and on the WCBU website, in case you missed it. We also surveyed all the candidates running for the five District Council seats in Peoria. Those surveys are posted on our website at [lwvgp.org](http://lwvgp.org).

On Feb. 25, the LWVGP, WCBU, the Peoria Public Library and WTVP will co-host a live candidate forum for the two finalists in the Peoria Mayoral Race. This will air on both WTVP and WCBU at 8 p.m. that evening and will be available on our Facebook page after the event. Please plan now to watch or listen.

Finally, at the request of two Washington, Ill. residents, LWVGP is hosting a candidate forum at 5:30 p.m. Wed., March 3, via Zoom. Candidates running for both Mayor and 3rd Ward position for the City of Washington will participate. Please check our Facebook page for more information on this event as it is still being planned.

———— Roberta Parks, Voter Services Chair

## MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Committee will meet at noon Mon., Feb. 8, on Zoom. If you would like to join us, please contact Connie Romanus or Jan Deissler.

We will celebrate having 131 members for this year, compared to 112 last year. We are looking to grow even more in 2021-2022 (can't believe I just typed 2022). Bring or send your ideas how to outreach further. Then BYOL (Bring your own Lunch) to your computer, notebook or phone and lunch with us. Thanks.

Every member can be involved in recruitment and retention. Each of you has relationships upon which we can build. Watch for a plan to increase membership by at least 10%. In 2020 we did 11% without actually meeting people.

For example, elsewhere in The Voter there is information about a March 24 fundraiser called "Tea for Three" about Betty Ford, Pat Nixon and Lady Bird Johnson. Please share the information with your friend. Or, if you're so inclined, invite friends to your home to participate. It is a great way to attract new members.

Let's see another year of membership growth! Stay healthy! Get vaccinated.

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*Join us for this virtual Fun-raiser  
LWVGP and Beta Zeta Chapter Delta Kappa Gamma Society present*

## **“Tea for Three” the Off-Broadway hit Starring Emmy Award-winning Elaine Bromka**



Wednesday, March 24, 2021  
7 – 8 p.m. followed by Q & A with Elaine Bromka  
Donation of \$10 per person  
(Link to be sent 24 hours prior to the program)

What is it like for a woman when her husband becomes the President of the United States – and she is suddenly thrust into the spotlight? “Tea For Three” explores the hopes, fears, quirks and loves of Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon and Betty Ford in what Mrs. Nixon called “the hardest unpaid job in the world.” Tickets are available for a \$10 donation at [lwgvp.org](http://lwgvp.org). If you have questions, contact Jan Deissler at [jandeissler77@gmail.com](mailto:jandeissler77@gmail.com).

View a **video clip** at [teafortthree.com](http://teafortthree.com).

## **PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY: Jan. 11**

The Board of Commissioners of PHA held its Annual Meeting at 4:15 p.m. Jan. 11. Commissioners affirmed conflict of interest and confidentiality agreements for 2021 term; each commissioner will sign and forward to legal counsel. Helen King was elected Vice Chair. Kadar Hefner was elected Treasurer and William Purham elected Secretary. Chairman Carl Cannon asked to wait until the regular meeting in February for more time to appoint commission members to committee roles.

The regular monthly meeting was held immediately after the annual meeting. There were no community comments or Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) graduates. The Dec. 2, 2020 regular board meeting and closed session minutes were approved.

Chief Executive Officer Jackie Newman discussed PHA and Illinois Central College (ICC) collaboration on Section 3 initiative for Taft project. Surveys from PHA residents have been received and follow up includes providing internet and computer access to assist with the application process. Frank Campbell Community Center will be used. Next steps include infrastructure planning for development site, including water and sewer line location, electrical service and spacing residential units. PHA staff have also reached out to local labor unions to identify job skill opportunities for residents without GEDs. PHA is using its newsletter to inform residents about changes and plans, as well as door to door canvassing. The first training group starts Feb. 8 with 12 participants, including men and women.

Commissioners approved a contract with Security Pro of Rockford IL as vendor for security services. This vendor has experience with housing authority residents, had positive references, automated records for timely reporting and follow up of issues, has family-friendly approach and will hire locally to cover PHA properties. An experienced employee of vendor will be assigned locally and work closely with PHA staff. Meetings will be held to introduce residents to Security Pro staff; security will be present at PHA activities. It is anticipated new vendor will be in place in February.

PHA staff is developing required emergency action plans for all locations to include a wide range of emergency situations. Collection loss of \$7,520 was approved to be written off.

New business: Board approved reactivating group search committee for CEO position. Commissioners Furness, Andrews and Hefner will review the job description and develop a timeline to fill position by February board meeting.

There was no closed session; meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

— Connie Romanus, Observer

## **PEORIA COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION, Jan. 12**

The January 2021 meeting of the Peoria County Election Commission was held remotely and live-streamed on Facebook. All commissioners were in attendance.

The regular board meeting was preceded by an Electoral Board meeting. Objections had been filed to the nominating papers of Abby Humbles for Dunlap School Board. The petitions had been reviewed on January 8, and found to be in order. Abby Humbles will be on the ballot.

\$90,000 of the \$109,544 Center for Tech & Civic Life Grant has either been spent or is spoken for. A report is due by the end of January, but funds can be spent until this summer.

Early voting has started for the February 23 primary election. 200 voters have already asked for ballots. The only partisan election is the Democratic primary for Peoria township.

Federal Warehouse was awarded the contract for moving equipment for the general election on April 6. Early voting for that election will start in the election office on February 25 for those precincts outside of the city of Peoria. Those city elections which are involved in the primary will not be ready until March 11 or 12.

—— Irene Pritzker, Observer



League of Women Voters  
of Greater Peoria

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ON THE WEB: [www.lwvgp.org](http://www.lwvgp.org)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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**League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria Board of Directors  
2020-2021**

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Terry Kohlbus, 1st V-P & Treasurer  
Kathie Raiborn, 2nd V-P  
Sandy Stemler, Secretary

Cheryl Budzinski Jan Deissler Kirsten Hall Tim Howard Kathleen Kelly Terry Bibo Knight Sean Koors Roberta Parks Jamila Wilson

**Newsletter**

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