

October 2017



Dear LWV Supporter,

In these trying times for our deeply divided country, there is nothing that inspires a greater sense of responsibility for me as a LWV leader than seeing or hearing this statement: "The League of Women Voters is a **trusted** civic organization." To me, it says that, since our beginning almost 100 years ago, we have stayed true to the belief of our founder Carrie Chapman Catt and have worked tirelessly for the more perfect democracy she envisioned when she made this statement:

"Everybody counts in applying democracy. And there will never be a true democracy until every responsible and law-abiding adult in it, without regard to race, sex, color or creed has his or her own inalienable and unpurchasable voice in government."

The dictionary defines **trust** as a "firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability or strength of someone or something." I believe that our communities **trust** the LWV because they recognize the enduring spirit of the women's suffrage movement living on in our model of civic engagement, one devoted to issues and placing what we deem the public good over partisan politics. We're trusted to organize around the principles of active and informed citizen participation. With our membership structure at the local, state, and national level; our communities trust us to spur action and get things done at the level where organization and actions are needed most.

We've had an influx of new members in the last year. A new LWV was organized in Springfield. Other communities have inquired about starting LWVs. We know that these people are looking for a meaningful way to demonstrate their belief in the hope and promise of the democratic principles on which our country was founded. They are looking for ways to "make democracy work."

It's in thinking about these people and communities and their trust in our organization that I most keenly feel the responsibility as a LWV leader. A major part of that responsibility is finding and investing the resources we need to reaffirm the organizing principles of our first 100 years and ensure that the LWV grows in strength and reliability to meet the challenges to our democracy in the next 100. To that end, I'm sharing with you today the LWVIL's plan for our "100th Anniversary Campaign" and its goal of raising \$200,000 by 2020.

Look at the plans and goals for our "100th Anniversary Campaign" on the attached pages. Learn how the funds raised will be used. Please carefully consider the options for giving and be as generous as you can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonnie". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Bonnie, President
League of Women Voters of Illinois
League of Women Voters of Illinois Education Fund