



The Chicago Voter

League of Women Voters of Chicago
Website - www.LWVChicago.org

November 2016
Vol. 67 No. 5

In this issue

CiF Report...pg 2
Next *CiF*...pg 2
Office Move...pg 2
New Members...pg 2
Unit Meetings...pg 2
Natural Resources Briefing...pg 2
Social Policy/Housing...pg 3
Education Committee...pg 3
Health Care Report...pg 3
Help Wanted...pg 3
Voter Service...pgs 4 & 5
Voter Registration Activities...pg 4
Election System...pg 5
World Chicago Visitors...pg 5
News from other LWVs...pg 6
Great Decisions...pg 7
CiF Flyer...pg 8

Upcoming Events

Membership Committee
November 3, 1 PM

General Election!!

November 8, 6 AM to 7 PM

Home Precincts

CiF Thursday, November 10
5 to 7 PM

Union League Club

SOC Committee

Friday, November 11

Briefing/Open Meeting

Saturday, November 12, 10 AM
Union League Club

LWVChicago Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 15, 5:30 PM

Social Policy/Housing Committee
Tuesday, November 22
10 AM to Noon

Please check the web site
LWVChicago.org for additional
scheduled committee meetings.

Call 312-939-5949 or
Email: League@LWVChicago.org
for meeting locations

President's Message



Dear Members,

We are headed into a presidential election that is historic and momentous for all sorts of reasons. In addition, the ballot is full of candidates and issues that affect us on a state, county, and city level.

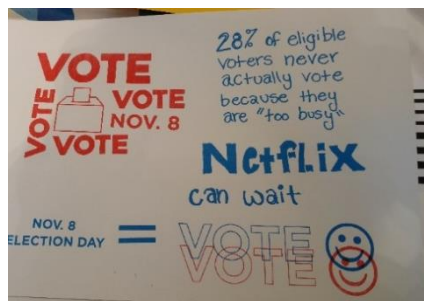
During the run-up to the election, Leaguers have been registering voters, moderating candidate forums, and spreading the word about early voting, VoteForJudges.org, and the importance of voting in general.



Last week, I was at a really fun event with some new partners for the League: The American Institute for Graphic Arts – Chicago and Cards Against Humanity. They held a design-a-thon, making posters to promote voting and printing them on a very fancy Risograph printer, which is a cross between a copier

and a silk-screen machine. There was so much enthusiasm! Designers made posters in two languages, without computer assistance. They plan to distribute them around the city, and they have talking points to use with friends who are not sure if their vote counts.

Of course, their votes count!



There is plenty more to be done between now and when votes are counted.

You can continue to talk about early voting and VoteForJudges.org, sign up to be a poll watcher, and, of course, make your vote count.

Thank you so much for all your help and support.

Annie

Natural Resources Briefing

The November Briefing/Open Meeting on Natural Resources will be on Saturday, November 12 at 10 AM at **the Union League Club** the topic is Chicago's water. See article on page 2 for background information.

Please let us know if you plan to attend. Contact the office at 312-939-5949 or email to League@LWVChicago.org.

A YEAR OF ACTION

Chicago in Focus Report



On September 29 there were over 50 attendees at the first **Chicago in Focus** of this League year. "The Daily Struggle: End Gun Violence in Chicago," was a presentation by

Colleen Daley, Executive Director of the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence (ICAHV) This series is co-sponsored by LWVChicago and the Union League Club.

Daley spoke about the urgency of gun violence prevention and the work ICAHV does with the Student Voices Program. She outlined some of the efforts with other Coalition groups such as the Brady Campaign to end Gun Violence. Daley allowed ample time for questions. If you did not attend or want a review, you can view the event on **CANTV**.

Jill Althage

Next Chicago in Focus

Don't miss the November 10 CiF program featuring Dr. Dick Simpson, Head of the UIC Political Science Department and former 44th Ward alderman. Dr Simpson will give us his analysis of *Election 2016: What Just Happened?*, not only nationally but locally. See the flyer on page 8 to RSVP.

LWV Office Move



Our moving date to Suite 634 is set for November 14. It may take a while for us to get settled, so please check the web site or call to find out where various committees and units will be meeting.

RSVP for all events to 312-939-5949 or League@lwvchicago.org.

Welcome to New Members
Fredda Berman
Janice Humphrey
Carolyn Pereira
Elizabeth Rosenthal
Tom Tresser

Unit Meetings Topic: Natural Resources

Far Southwest Side Unit
 Wednesday, December 7 – 7 PM
 Home of Marica Cowing*
 Leaders – Marcia Cowing, Betsy Perrine

Hyde Park Unit
 Thursday, November 17 – 1:30 PM
 Montgomery Place
 Leaders – Susan Hamburger, Dorothy Scheff

Loop Unit – afternoon
 Wednesday, November 16 – 1:30 PM
 Home of Carol Ziegeldorf*
 Leaders – Norma Braude, Carol Ziegeldorf

Loop Unit – evening
 Tuesday, November 22 – 5:30 PM
 Contact Margaret Herring* for location
 Leader – Margaret Herring

Loop Unit – morning
 Thursday, November 17 – 10 AM
 Leader – Bernice Fortini

West Side Unit
 Sunday, November 13 – 1:30 PM
 Third Unitarian Church
 301 N. Mayfield, Chicago
 Sunday, December 11 – 1 PM
 Home of Barbara Minor*
 Leader – Joan Morton

*For address contact the office

Natural Resources Briefing

LWVUS has a strong position on Natural Resources, including water. This position, in brief, "support(s) measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water." The position in full addresses concern for water quality and depletion of the resource; reduction of pollution from direct point source discharges and from indirect nonpoint sources; achieving water quality essential for maintaining species populations and diversity including measures that protect lakes, estuaries, wetlands and in-stream flow; stringent control to protect the quality of current and potential drinking-water supplies. The NR position on water includes criteria for the evaluation of inter-basin transfers.

We, in Chicago, live beside a Great Lake which provides us water and recreation. When the Chicago River was reversed, there was a major inter-basin transfer. We worry about Asian carp which may join the lamprey eel as another home wrecker of our native fish. We are building a deep tunnel system to reduce pollution from our combined sewer system.

The Briefing/Open Meeting will be Saturday, November 12, 10 AM at the Union League Club.

Margaret Herring

Social Policy/Housing Committee

The State of Illinois has gone over 16 months without a budget. The Committee recommends reading the Illinois Issues article entitled “The Costs of Doing Business Without A Budget.” It can be found [on line](#).

Other topics of interest are Reforming Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (“TANF”), HUD’s New Protocols for Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing and the proposed Chicago Mandatory Residential Building Inspection Ordinance.

To participate in the discussion including the topic for the April Briefing attend the next committee meeting on Tuesday, November 22, 10 AM at the Chicago League office.

Herb Ziegeldorf

Education Committee

The Education Committee met on October 19 and updated information about two issues both based on LWVIL and LWVUS positions. These relate to providing necessary services and equalizing opportunities for students in public schools.

The first issue involves support for community schools throughout Chicago Public Schools (CPS). Community schools bring wrap-around social services to schools in those areas of the city with concentrated poverty and few community services, thus providing social and emotional support to help prevent drop outs and connect the school and the community.

The second involves support for an adequate number of school social workers, counselors, nurses, and psychologists. News reports and an in-depth study that compared the number of support personnel to national norms by the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) shows that these professionals are in short supply.

Rae Sokolow

Health Care Report

Federal

Open enrollment period for coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) for 2017 runs from November 1, 2016 thru January 31, 2017. Those shopping for marketplace plans will likely find higher premiums, and less choice of providers, including hospitals. In Illinois 78% of enrollees in an ACA plan were eligible for a subsidy to cover the premium cost.

Risk adjustment strategies in the ACA to provide stability, and compensate for the enrollment of less

healthy individuals did not meet the goal following congressional changes to the program.

Drew Altman, CEO of the Kaiser Family Foundation, states in “The ACA Marketplace Problems in Context (and Why They Don’t Mean Obamacare is Failing’). He points out that more people have been covered by ACA Medicaid expansion even though 19 states have not enrolled. The Act’s health reforms as protection for pre-existing conditions apply to those not buying from the exchanges. Altman ends: “The issues in the ACA marketplace are real problems that need to be addressed through greater enrollment and policy changes. But if Obamacare had bipartisan support they would be treated much more like mundane implementation issues to be addressed by Congress than glaring headlines of failure.”

Margaret O'Hara



State of the City

The State of the City committee has begun working on LWVChicago’s fundraising luncheon for next spring. The date, speaker(s), and subject are under discussion. We welcome anyone who is interested in helping out with the event to attend our meetings. The next meeting will be held at the League office on Friday, November 11, at 10:00 am. Please join us.

Rae Sokolow

Communications Committee

LWVChicago is organizing a committee that will explore ways to build on our existing communications vehicles so we can better deliver our message via the Web, social media, and news media. The committee will be scheduling its inaugural meeting soon. If you are interested in being a part of this new venture, we welcome your input.

Cathy Potkay

Observers

LWVChicago members may volunteer to observe various public meetings, such as Chicago City Council and its committees. To read reports from our current observers see the LWVChicago [web site](#).

To join the State of the City, the new Communications Committee or be an observer, RSVP to league@lwwchicago.org or 312-939-5949.

Voter Service

Candidate Information



You can view your entire sample ballot on the Chicago Board of Elections [web site](#). It lists all of your candidates. You can also apply (until November 3) for a vote by mail ballot.

Information about candidates and some endorsements may be found on:

- Ballotready: [ballotready.org](#)
- Chicago Tribune: [elections.chicagotribune.com/candidates](#)
- Chicago Sun-Times: [suntimescandidates.com](#)
- Vote for Judges: [voteforjudges.org](#)
- Video Voters Guide from LWVCookCounty and WTTW. This [guide](#) offers two minute videos of the candidates in **contested** races for Congress, Cook County State's Attorney, Clerk of the Court, the Board of Review Commissioner for the third District, and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Board.

LWVIL, ABC7, and Univision are cosponsoring a U.S. Senate debate with U.S. Senator Mark Kirk and U.S. Representative Tammy Duckworth. The **November 4** program will be taped and broadcast on ABC7 at 10:35pm on November 4 and streamed live on the ABC7 website.

Binding Referenda Recommendations

All referenda are on a separate ballot in Chicago. Two of the six referenda; the Amendment to the Illinois Constitution and the Cook County Consolidation question are binding. The other four are advisory.



LWVIL [recommends](#) a NO vote on the transportation fund amendment to the Illinois Constitution.

LWVCookCounty [recommends](#) a YES vote on the binding referendum that asks whether the elected position of the Cook County Recorder of Deeds should be eliminated and all duties of the office transferred to the Cook County Clerk.



Other Election Activities

As we head into the last week before Election Day, there are still opportunities for LWVChicago members to be involved with Voter Service.

- * Poll watch. As a member of LWVChicago you can be a Poll watcher (unless you are an Election Judge!). Please contact the [office](#) for credentials and instructions.
- * Stress the importance of VOTING whenever you can.
- * Remind citizens who are not registered that they can still take advantage of Grace Period and Same Day Registration.
- * Provide other voters with information about early voting, voting by mail, locating their polling place, candidates' positions and ballot issues.

The Board of Elections [web site](#) has all the information!

After you have voted, be sure to "show off" your wrist band and spread the news on social media; it has been reported that this encourages others to vote.

Voter Registration Activities

This has been a great year for LWVChicago's Voter Registration activities. There were lots of registration events, lots of Leaguers involved in staffing them, and many, many hours spent on them.



Fifteen members enrolled in the Deputy Voter Registrar classes this fall. Some were new LWV members, and some were already members. This brings the total to 45 DVRs in the Chicago League.

We provided registrars for 39 planned sessions or events. These were held at schools, businesses, restaurants, health clinics, CHA fairs, service organizations, community centers, churches, and residences. Some involved a speaker and registrar, but most used one to six registrars. Twenty-one League registrars volunteered at these events.

Since August we have registered over 250 citizens. Additionally, over 110 more were helped to check the system to see if they are already registered, and in

most cases, they have been. Some people took information about on-line registration and some took mail in self-registration forms, although we have no way of knowing if they used these. We have also answered many questions about registration, naturalization data requirements, early voting, grace-period and same-day registration, how to find the polling place and sample ballot, and other general voting information questions. We have distributed over 1,000 election information bookmarks or leaflets.

Our registrars have spent approximately 300 hours traveling to and from and working at the registration sessions, and returning the forms to the Board of Elections. About 60 hours were spent on DVR training and about 100 hours was involved in administrative activities.

To facilitate staffing the registration sessions we contacted the requestors for information, then sent several email requests to the DVRs asking for volunteers to work at the scheduled registration sessions. We scheduled the sessions and later emailed reminder notes to the DVRs before their sessions, as well as notes to the contact persons identifying who would be working at their sessions.

We are just about finished. Registration by Deputy Voter Registrars and on-line registration is over until after the election. The only way left to register is in the grace period at early voting, or at your polling place on election day. There are still two speaking engagements left to do, and mock elections in some High Schools. And...

NOW IS THE TIME TO GET OUT THE VOTE!

Again, many thanks to a wonderful group of Deputy Voter Registrars who helped us fulfill one of the important missions of the League: **Voter Service**.

Cathy Potkay

How Vulnerable Is Our Election System?

In addition to credible reports that Russia was attempting to influence US elections by hacking the email server of the Democratic National Committee, the FBI has also determined that foreign hackers penetrated two state election databases. A report by the Brennan Center, New York, notes that steps have been taken over the last few years to protect the integrity of US elections. The report acknowledges that the recent hacks deserve attention. However, it acknowledges that the US has made important advances in securing voting technology. Few votes are cast over the internet or machines that are connected to the internet and the vast majority of ballots will be

cast on systems that have a paper trail that allows election officials to independently verify software totals. A cyberattack against our voting machines that affects the results of a national election is therefore highly unlikely.



Nevertheless, steps can be taken to improve the security and

accuracy of our voting systems. Computer scientists have shown that older equipment, in particular, can be insecure. It is also difficult to maintain and more likely to fail even without interference from a cyberattack. While small-scale cyberattacks or failures of individual machines would not impact national vote totals, they can severely damage voter confidence and would be troubling in close contests.

Proper safeguards can ensure that attacks on voter registration databases will not prevent a legitimate voter from casting a ballot; an attack on these systems places a voter's personal information at risk. These include prompt attention to a voter's report of problems while voting or machine failure, physical security of voting equipment and paper records with clear chain-of-custody procedures, pre-election testing of all machines, emergency paper ballots at polling sites that have electronic machines, post-election audits to confirm that paper records match electronic results.

Other long-term safeguards should also be put in place. For more information, see the Brennan Center report on **Election 2016 Controversies**: Voting System Security and Reliability Risks.

World Chicago Visitors

On October 20, four members of LWVChicago met with a delegation of seven visitors from Liberia under the



auspices of the World Chicago and the US Department of State.

The guests were interested in

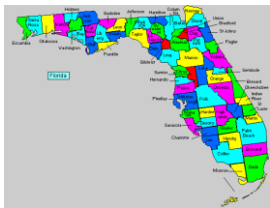
our upcoming election including the processes for registration, voting and methods by which voters can find information about the candidates and issues. They also asked about encouraging voter participation and encouraging women to run for elected office.

From the LWVUS (LWV.org)

Florida Judge Extends Voter Registration

Washington, DC and Tallahassee, FL—A Florida judge ruled in favor of voters by extending voter registration an additional week.

The extension allowed the Florida League of Women Voters “to make up for lost time and help register people whose lives were disrupted by the storm,” said Pamela Goodman, president. “Our goal is to help every Floridian register, vote, and be heard, and we’re grateful that the storm did not silence their voices.”



On October 17 the League of Women Voters of Florida filed a complaint against the Governor and Secretary of State for refusing to extend voter registration in the

aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. The ruling on October 18 cited the League’s argument that the National Voter Registration Act provides that voter cutoff dates may be no more than 30 days before an election. (Ed’s note: The extension allowed an estimated 100,000 additional registrations.)



“This was the only fair result,” said Chris Carson, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States. The League worked across the state to continue registering voters’ right up to the extended deadline, Carson said.

From the LWVLMR (LWVLMR.org)

Annual Meeting Report

Friday and Saturday, October 14 and 15, the League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region held its annual meeting at the Spring Hill Inn in Porter, Indiana. Spring Hill is immediately south of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, which ranks tenth in plant diversity among National Parks. (Yellowstone, Acadia and Great Smokey Mountain Parks rank higher.)



At the LWVLMR business meeting, members amended bylaws to stagger officers’ terms, adopted a budget, and elected Krista Grimm as president, Vina Mikesell as secretary, and Lisa Harris as interim treasurer.

In addition, field trips highlighted the varied flora of the area and described efforts to remove invasive species and restore native plant habitat and attendees:

- Learned from Natalie Johnson of the Urban Waters Coordinator to the Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Federal Partnership about threats to water quality and efforts to engage students in improving water quality.
- Viewed “Lake Michigan in a Dugout,” a film by Amy Lukas and Mary Cattelin that depicted their construction of a dugout, equipped with outriggers, and their sailing trip along the circumference of Lake Michigan.
- Heard from Noel Pavlovic, research ecologist, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, about the native plant diversity, invasive species, and the effect on fauna of changing the flora, and Cathy Martin, Parks Program Manager of Save the Dunes, Michigan City, Indiana, about the program’s work with communities to implement restoration projects of rare natural habitats in Dunes National Park.

From the LWVIL (LWVIL.org)

Federal Court Allows Same-Day Registration in Illinois

Same-day voter registration will be allowed in Illinois in the general election. A federal appeals court ruled on October 19 that a challenge to same-day registration will be resolved after November 8. The decision by the 7th US Court of Appeals means legal wrangling between the conservative Illinois Policy Institute and the state will not affect this election and the constitutionality of the law will be decided at a later date.

The appeals court decision temporarily overrides a federal judge’s decision that the Election Day voter registration law discriminates against voters in rural and GOP-leaning areas.

Under the law, counties with more than 100,000 residents as well as smaller counties that keep electronic records must allow voters to register on Election Day. Voters in places that do not have electronic records must travel to their county’s main election office or a larger municipality.

Both parties to the lawsuit will begin filing their legal briefs with the appeals court on November 10.

From the LWVCC (LWVCookCounty.org)

Cook County Board budget meetings are underway: The proposed budget is \$4.8 billion (\$400 million more than 2016). To help balance it, the President has proposed a one-cent-per-ounce tax on sweetened beverages. See the **Eyewitness Reports** on our web site. The Board is expected to finalize the budget before Thanksgiving.



Join a Great Decisions Group



League members and their friends are invited to join an LWVChicago sponsored Great Decisions Group that will begin meeting in early 2017. The groups have generally met every 2 weeks from late January to May to discuss the 8 topics covered by 10 - 12 page articles in the *Great Decisions* booklet published by the non-partisan Foreign Policy Association. Cost of the booklet is expected to be around \$25.

The topics for 2017 are the Future of Europe, Trade and Politics, Conflict in the South China Sea, Saudi Arabia in Transition, U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum, Latin America's Political Pendulum, Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan, and Nuclear Security.

Participating is a wonderful way to get to know people while you are expanding your interests and knowledge. At each session, we also watch a short video program on the topic before beginning a discussion led by one of the participants who volunteers to do so. You need not have any background in foreign policy or in the topics to be able to participate.

We expect to have at least one group that will be meeting on Tuesday afternoons in the Aqua at Lakeshore East Building, downtown near Millennium Park. Additional groups will be formed if there is sufficient interest. If you (and any of your friends) are interested, please complete and return the form below by no later than **December 7**.

GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP INTEREST FORM

_____ I would be willing to participate in a group in the Aqua Building on Tuesday afternoons from late Jan./early Feb. to May

_____ I cannot meet then, but I am interested in participating and I could meet in the

_____ League office downtown OR _____ (specify) _____

on (specify what days of the week and times – e.g., morning, afternoon, or evening are good for you):

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Return to League of Women Voters of Chicago, 332 S. Michigan, Suite 525, Chicago, IL 60604; **e-mail** League@lwcchicago.org; **phone** 312-939-5949. Deadline: **December 7**.



Chicago in Focus

A quarterly discussion series featuring All Things Chicago

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Chicago and the Union League Club of Chicago

November 10, 2016



Speaker: Dick Simpson, Professor, Political Science Department,
University of Illinois at Chicago; Author, *Winning Elections in the 21st Century*

ELECTION 2016: WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

And how does it affect our city?

Union League Club
65 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL

5 - 7 p.m.
Doors open at 5 p.m.
Program begins at 5:30

Admission is free, cash bar
Dress: Business casual, no jeans/denim

RSVP to 312-939-5949 or League@LWVChicago.org

Bring a friend!

Next Chicago in Focus
February 23, 2017