Annual Meeting

League of Women Voters
Oak Park & River Forest
June 9, 2026

6:00 PM

2026

League of Women Voters of Oak Park & River Forest

101th Annual Meeting
Tuesday, June 9, 2026
Oak Park Main Library
834 Lake Street
Oak Park, IL 60302

LWV IL President Becky Simon and LWV IL Voter Service Specialist Roberta Borrino will discuss threats to voting and the League response



Business Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Call to Order	Judith Crown
Disposition of the Minutes of 2025 annual meeting	Mary Ann Porucznik
Treasurer's Report	Sue Jaffee
Budget Proposal 2026–27	Sue Jaffee/Joan Petertil
Bylaws	Mary Ann Porucznik
Transformation Update	Jane Hastings
Local Program Report 2025-26/Proposed FY'27 Priorities	Beverly Tuck/Judith Crown
Proposed Slate of Officers & Board/Floor nominations	Penny Wallingford/Joanne Susmilch

Recognition of Past Presidents/Hanson Award Recipients	Beverly Tuck
Presentation of Hazel Hanson Award	Judith Crown
Introduction of Speakers	Judith Crown
Closing Remarks and Acknowledgments	Beverly Tuck

Sadly, we acknowledge the loss of the following League members who passed away during our program year: Donna Clesen, Susan Dahm, and Leah Marcus.

Meeting Adjournment	Beverly Tuck

Proposed Rules of 2026 Annual Meeting

1. Only members of the League of Women Voters of Oak Park & River Forest may vote**.**
2. Only voting members may address the meeting. A member wishing to speak can raise their hand during the meeting, be recognized by the chair, and give her or his name and League position, if held.
3. During debate on a motion, no person may speak more than once until all others who wish to speak have been heard. After the original presentation, debate shall be limited to one minute for each speaker.
4. No announcements shall be made that do not relate to the business of the meeting or the welfare of the members.
5. Procedure for adoption of local program shall be:
    a. Recommended items shall be moved for adoption by the Vice-President or the Co-President.
    b. Motion for consideration of any non-recommended items shall be made by majority vote.
    c. Debate on recommended and non-recommended items shall then be held (items may be amended at this time).
    d. Recommended items shall be voted upon in their entirety by majority vote.
    e. Non-recommended items shall be voted on individually (two-thirds vote required).
6. Business of the Annual Meeting shall be further governed by those procedures outlined in *Simplified Parliamentary Procedure* based on *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.*
7. These rules may be amended, rescinded, or suspended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting.

Current Assets as of April 30, 2026

Bank Accounts Byline Bank Checking	$18,315.54
Certificate of Deposit 6.13.26	$10,858.75
Certificate of Deposit 7.26.26	$10,466.27
Certificate of Deposit 7.28.26	$21,592.65

Total Current Assets $61,233.21

LWVOPRF Proposed Budget 2026-2027	Projection	Proposed Budget	Notes
	7/2025-6/2026	7/2026-6/2027	
REVENUE			
Annual Dues (Net of Payments to LWVIL/ US)	2,628	2,600	(A)
Member Contributions	7,009	4,000	
Fundraising Income	225	4,000	
Interest from CD & Checking	1,456	1,425	
Sponsorship donations	267	0	
Uncategorized Income	9	0	
Total Operating Revenue	**11,595**	**12,025**	
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Advertising & Marketing	3,800	5,000	
Annual Meeting	700	700	
Committee Projects- Advocacy	0	100	
Committee Projects- Children/Youth/MOFP	250	250	
Committee Projects- Coffee and Conversation	250	500	
Committee Projects -Drinks & Dialogue	1,200	1,300	
Committee Projects- Environment	190	250	
Committee Projects- Great Decisions	(372)	0	
Committee Projects- Memorials/Museum/Gifts	100	360	
Committee Projects- Voter Services	0	750	
Communications-Wk-in-Preview/FB/Zoom/Website	973	475	
Consultant/Board	0	0	
Delegate Fees (CC; LWVIL; US & Inter League)	2,600	750	
Events- Centennial Celebration (Tickets less Exp)	0	0	
Events- Fall Kick-Off, Mix & Mingle, Other social	1,365	1,900	
Events- Hazel Hanson Award	100	100	
Fundraising	94	1,200	
LMR, LMRR, ILO Member Fees	75	75	
Meeting Room Rental & Refreshments	0	500	
Member Services-Directory	0	50	
Misc. (Incl. Day in Our Village) &Dues Scholarship	0	300	
PMPs(Cook County)	349	350	
PMPs(LWVIL & US) *	11,200	0	(B)
Printing & Postage	250	1,000	
Treasurer Expenses	110	110	
Total Operating Expenses	**$23,235**	**$16,020**	
Net Revenue (Deficit) incl PMP expenses	($11,639)	($3,995)	(C)
PMP(LWVIL & US) *Pd with dues revenue from FY25	11,200	0	(B)
Transfer from Fund Balance (Per Policy)	439	3,995	(D)
Net Revenue (C - (B+D)	**$0**	**$0**	

Budget Committee: Sue Jaffee & Joan Petertil

Note (A) With the new Annual Dues policy enacted in 2025, Leagues receive 20% of dues paid in by members, net of administrative fees.

Note(B) Last year for the Per Member Payment due from prev. year currently in cash account.

Note (C) Net Revenue with Per Member Payment applied.

Note (D) Reserve transfer policy currently is a 5 year amortization of available fund balance.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST

Accomplishments for the 2025-2026 program year

The last year saw an unprecedented assault on democratic institutions by the federal government. Our chapter supported the LWVUS Unite and Rise 8.5 initiative to defend democracy. It aims to engage 8.5 million people based on research suggesting that about 3.5% of the population can drive meaningful change through nonviolent action.

Our chapter participated by taking nonviolent action(protests, advocacy, contacting officials). We encouraged members to join protests, write letters and contact elected officials. In addition, we ran civic education programs pertaining to democracy and wrote letters to the editor of Wednesday Journal. Finally, we continued and explored partnerships with local organizations.

RAPID RESPONSE TEAM

A committee was established to share with our members ways to defend democracy and connect with other area organizations. We supported the John Lewis National Day of Mobilization on July 17, the "Make Good Trouble Day of Action" honoring the Lewis legacy and recommitting to the fight for voting rights and democracy. We took out an ad in the Wednesday Journal, sent letters to the editor, printed signs to carry to rallies, and recruited members to join us at rallies in Oak Park and downtown Chicago.

- We showed up with signs at protests, including No Kings marches in October 2025 and March 2026.
- We sent information through WIP about immigrant rights and shared opportunities to join protests over cuts to Medicaid, SNAP and education. We shared information about the SAVE Act at the Farmers' Market.
- We offered tips on how to take everyday action to defend democracy such as submitting Witness Slips, and how to monitor ICE activities. We connected with Indivisible and Congregations Networking for Social Justice.
- We developed a list of members who wanted to be notified of rallies and protests and other activities requiring a quick response.

LOCAL FOCUS:

1. *Improve local League website/electronic/media communications to foster transparency, community engagement. and participation in government.*

- Continued publication of weekly email and monthly newsletters to members.
- Continued weekly updates to the website with calendar, upcoming events and photos.
- Above-industry average open rate of between 60% and 65% of weekly emails and newsletters.
- Our Facebook account has 1,076 followers and our posts have received more than 6,858 brief views over the 90-day period ending April 15, 2026. More than 1,500 distinct Facebook users have viewed our content.

•Continued to develop our Instagram account as an additional means of connecting with the public.

•Used Evite for the first time for Mix and Mingle event, which yielded a strong response. Also used for the annual meeting.

2. *Promote Civic engagement/education by presenting programs to the public on timely issues and serve as trusted source of information*

- The Fall Kickoff in October, "Can Local Journalism Survive? Thrive?" drew attendance of more than 80 in person and on Zoom. Our League chapter teamed with Growing Community Media/Wednesday Journal to sponsor the event. The panel featured Tracy Baim, executive director of Press Forward Chicago, part of a national initiative to fund local news.

- Coffee and Conversation, formerly Second Tuesday, presented five programs at the Nineteenth Century Club. Topics included updates on BUILD, an Austin youth organization, Restorative Justice, the status of food insecurity from the Greater Chicago Food Depository, Illinois Fair Maps and federal school vouchers, Migrant Ministries and the Boulevard Presbyterian Free Store.

- Drinks & Dialogue hosted four programs at Friendly's Tap in Berwyn. Edwin Yohnka of ACLU discussed the threats to democracy. Steven Schwinn of UIC Law School examined constitutional challenges. Two health care policy experts reviewed upcoming challenges to the healthcare safety net. Emily Reusswig of Openlands spoke on efforts in conservation and local rewilding.

- Members presented to local organizations including the DAR, National Association of University Women, Grace Lutheran Church concert with Change Illinois, and Women Leaders in Philanthropy.

- Great Decisions enjoyed active participation at Brookdale Oak Park and Maze library.

3. *Continue voter service efforts to register, educate and provide information to voters.*

- Members passed out palm cards at community events for online voter registration.
- Gathered and entered candidate information for spring primaries for the US 7th Congressional District, Illinois Senate 39th District, and Illinois House 78th District for the VOTE411 website.
- Promoted voter registration participation at the Dirksen Federal Building for new citizens.
- Organized voter registration at senior facilities in Oak Park and River Forest.
- Sponsored members to take the online Deputy Registrar Training with Cook County.
- Made a presentation to the Library Administrators Conference of Northern Illinois.
- Attended and registered OPRF High School students at a Fall and Spring Civics Learning Fair.
- Registered voters at Oak Park and River Forest senior living locations.
- Organized and ran the Mills Tower Resident Council Election.

4. Expand membership, build LWV brand and encourage participation to further LWV mission.

- The membership committee reached out to new members and held welcome events. We had 41 new members between May 2025 and April 2026. Membership as of mid-May was 190.
- Developed a new member welcome letter and descriptions of committees that are sent to new members by co-presidents.
- Alerted new members to upcoming League events.
- Collected names of community attendees at League programs and followed up.
- Continued advertising LWVOPRF programs in Wednesday Journal and Patch. Ads promoted Black History month, Earth Day and holiday giving. We supported the Oak Park River Forest History Museum and the Collaboration for Early Childhood.
- Staffed an LWV OPRF table at Oak Park's Civic Fair and Day in the Village.
- Submitted op-ed columns to Wednesday Journal on Vote by Mail and Federal School Vouchers.
- Received $7,000 in donations, including $3,000 from a long-term member. A fundraiser at Good Earth Greenhouse and brought in $224.
- The League worked with Brookdale for the annual "Mix and Mingle" membership event that drew 50 attendees.

5. Encourage participation and engage all members in League advocacy and priorities.

- Members of the Advocacy Committee attended Lobby Day in Springfield on May 13 to seek more state funding for education and social services
- On October 6th members of the Issues and Advocacy Committee met with Illinois House Speaker Chris Welch to discuss the state budget shortfall, the impact on education and other issues. Met with Senate President Don Harmon on January 22 to discuss the need for funding given cuts to federal funding sources. Attended a Town Hall meeting held by Welch.
- We joined with the LaGrange LWV chapter for a meeting with State Representative La Shawn Ford to discuss the 2025 legislative session, including education funding and revenue generation.
- Members of the committee also participated in organized activities at the Broadview Detention Facility. They traveled to the facility in the summer and fall 2025 to bear witness and report on ICE activities. Met with Representative Norma Hernandez to identify ways LWV members could support the immigrant community.
- Board member Ann Courter, who is also the LWVIL education issues specialist, appeared on WTTW's, "Chicago Tonight," to discuss the League's opposition to the federal school voucher program.
- Posted calls for legislative action on Facebook and Week in Preview.

6. Partner with community organizations to accomplish shared goals on representative government, the environment, and voter services.

- Participated in Go Green Days held at the Oak Park Farmers Market in May and staffed a table in July highlighting Plastic Free July to educate the public on reducing plastic use.

- The Environment Committee scheduled a tour of the LRS Exchange Material Recycling Facility.
- Continued work with other local green groups to encourage the Farmers Market Commission to mandate use of small compostable or paper bags.

- Attended Plastic Lobby Day in Springfield.

- Assisted Interfaith Green Network in staffing an environmental table and presenting the program for the One Earth Film Festival at Unity Temple.
- Provided financial assistance to a small group of students from the OPRFHS Environment Club in support of their art project, "Trash to Art Documentary Video" for submission to the One Earth Film Festival Youth Contest.

- The co-chairs continued to attend meetings of the Coalition for Plastic Reduction, a group of environmental organizations from across the state focused on reducing single-use plastics.

- Continued membership in LWV Lake Michigan.

7. Looking to restart/revitalize Observers program to monitor local units of governments.

- Several members completed LWVIL Observer training and we look to launch coverage of local units of government in the coming program year.

8. Gun Violence Prevention Study

- In April, the LWVOPRF Board approved and submitted the Gun Violence Prevention (GVP) Policy Consensus report to the LWVIL board. Twenty-three proposed GVP policies received consensus support as written. Consensus with exception was reached for two additional policies, where revisions were recommended.

- This report is the culmination of a year's work by the LWVOPRF GVP Policy team researching supportive and opposing arguments on 25 LWVIL proposed policies. Now that our report is submitted to LWVIL, Consensus Reports from local chapters across Illinois will be combined and a final recommendation will be presented to members to be adopted at the next state convention in June 2027. Once adopted, the LWVIL will have expanded the opportunities to support gun violence prevention legislation.

- LWVOPRF joined the Responsibility in Firearm Legislation (RIFL) Act Coalition and co-sponsored the Reimagining Public Safety Town Hall-Oak Park, January 2026.

Proposed program for 2026-27

The proposed program was developed by a Program Planning committee that met in April to set priorities for the next program year. Thanks to Simone Boutet, Mary Chris Jaklevic, Pat Johnson, Lois Love, Suzanne Poisl, Jo-Ella Podagrosi Spratt and Penny Wallingford

Another Committee met in February to provide input to LWVUS in advance of the June convention. This included input on protecting the rights of immigrants, defending the vote in the November midterm election and supporting the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.
Thanks to Ann Courter, Barbara Paterick, Marilyn Pearson and Penny Wallingford

- Enhance our voter services programs given the threats to voting rights and processes. This includes voter registration initiatives and communications outreach to encourage voting
- Outreach to colleges and high schools for voter registration and to establish a connection with young voters, potential members
- Continue activism to answer the threats to democracy, including a presence at public protests
- Elevate critical issues at state and local level, especially tax reform
- Enhance the Observers program and connect to local units of government
- Promote civic engagement/education by presenting programs to the public on timely issues and serve as trusted source of information
- Continue to improve the local League website and expand social media to disseminate information on issues and events, including voter information
- Partner with other community organizations to accomplish shared goals on representative government, the environment, and voter services.
- Expand membership, build the LWV brand and encourage participation from new and current members

League of Women Voters of Oak Park and River Forest
Proposed Nominations for 2026-27

Board Officers:

Co-Presidents:	Judith Crown	2025-2027
	Beverly Tuck	2025-2027
Vice Presidents:	Tina Birnbaum	2026-2027
	Penny Wallingford	2025-2027
Treasurer:	Edward White	2026-2028
Secretary:	Mary Ann Porucznik	2025-2027

Directors:	Ann Courter	2025-2027
	Mary Chris Jaklevic	2026-2028
	Pat Johnson	2025-2027
	Belinda Lutz-Hamel	2026-2028
	Marilyn Pearson	2025-2027
	Jo-Ella Podagrosi Spratt	2026-2028
	Suzanne Poisl (at large)	2026-2027

Committee Chairs 2026-2027 Appointed by the Board for one-year terms. Chairs may be appointed multiple times.

Administration: Peggy Kell

Advocacy: Marilyn Pearson

Archives: Mary Ann Porucznik

Budget Committee: Susan Jaffee & Ed White

Coffee & Conversation: Pat Johnson & Teresa Powell

Communications: Peggy Kell, Leslie Lauderdale, Jody Evenson

Drinks & Dialogue: Belinda Lutz-Hamel & Michelle Fitz-Henry

Environment: Marsha Borders & Beverly Graham

Fundraising: Judith Crown

International Relations/Great Decisions: Edward White

LWVCC Liaison: Leslie Lauderdale

LWV Lake Michigan Liaison: Kelly McDonald

Membership: Joanne Susmilch, Mary Chris Jaklevic

Nominating: Ann Courter, Penny Wallingford

Observers: Amber Elmer, Judith Crown

Voter Services: Peggy Kell, Suzanne Poisl

Standing Committees to be appointed by the Board of Directors: ByLaws, Financial Review and Political Activity Policy.

Hazel Hanson Award: Tina Birnbaum

About Hazel Hanson: Twice the president of our League, in 1953-55 and 1969-71, Hanson had a deep understanding of the organization, its work and principles. In 1987, she donated to establish an award to be given to a member who promoted the goals of the League and was active in the community. Hanson embodied this principle. As an Oak Park Village Trustee, she was instrumental in passing the Fair Housing Ordinance. She also was a member of the committee that planned the new library

Tina Birnbaum
2026 Hazel Hanson
Award Winner

Tina Birnbaum, a 30-year member, is appreciated for her deep institutional knowledge of the League of Women Voters, what we stand for and how we should function. She is a past president of our chapter and rejoined the board in 2021. She has since served as vice president and co-chair of the nominating and membership committees. She is always a voice of wise and calming counsel when thorny issues arise.

Outside of the League, she's been an active member of the Oak Park and River Forest community. In September 2025, she was honored with the Ulyssean Award by the Senior Citizens Center of Oak Park and River Forest for her commitment to lifelong learning.

Trained as a social worker (with a degree in sociology and minors in political science and philosophy), she spent nearly a decade at the parent child center Parenthesis, where she rose from social worker to executive director. Tina went on to work for more than 30 years as a therapist and principal at Transitions: Associates in Therapy.

She was an early board member of Sarah's Inn, which supports survivors of domestic violence, and she helped launch and lead the organization's first hotline training. Tina has taught for-credit and continuing education classes at Triton and Harold Washington Colleges and led parenting workshops through Parenthesis and the Mental Health Board of Oak Park and River Forest. She's lectured on domestic violence and family relationships at numerous conferences and seminars. And she's written articles and columns on subjects in her field, including a book published in 2003.

Tina has been teaching Tai Chi to adults in the Park District of Oak Park's Lifelong Learning program for more than a decade and created a program for beginners in order to make the practice widely accessible. Over the past several years, she has worked with the National Public Housing Museum, contributing historic memorabilia from the kitchens of her parents and grandparents.

Her many hobbies include singing with the Sounds Good Chorus, participating in community groups such as Arbor West and baking for family, friends and neighbors. Tina says she loves learning new things and being a beginner. She notes that she has read the entire Federalist Papers. Her most unusual volunteer gig was teaching African dance to deaf and mental ill residents of a local mental

health hospital. “They could feel the vibrations of the drums,” she says.

Tina has lived with her husband Stan in Oak Park since 1978, where they raised two children and enjoy their four grandchildren.