



The Chicago Voter

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

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Upcoming Events

LWVChicago Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 4, 5:30 PM

Voter Service/Election Briefing
Saturday, October 8, 10 AM
Room 430

LWV Lake Michigan Region
Annual Conference
October 14-15, Porter, Indiana

Education Committee
October 19, 10 AM

Membership Committee
November 3, 1 PM

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

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

**A YEAR OF
ACTION**

President's Message

Dear Members,

This election is a complicated one for many reasons, and it is in times like these that the League of Women Voters shines. Our members are registering voters, giving educational talks, and moderating candidate forums to help people make informed choices on November 8.

Although I and other the members of the League Board encourage Leaguers to volunteer, we know that many of you do not have the time. That's okay. We benefit from your participation. Your dues payments support all of our activities, whether they involve getting out the vote, education, healthcare, or the environment. Your names on our roster bolster our numbers. The larger our membership, the more clout we have with elected officials, and we all know how important clout is in Chicago.

But it is in the election season when you can the most to help spread the League's work--even if you do nothing else all year. Here's how:

- Do you know someone who needs to register to vote? Send them to ChicagoElections.com for online registration.
- Do you have a loved one away at college or in military service? Tell them to get an absentee ballot at Vote.org.
- Know someone unsure of how to handle the many judicial elections? Have them go to VoteForJudges.org to see bar association evaluations. And yes, let them know that they can bring notes on judges and other candidates into the voting booth.

Through word of mouth, including social media, you can help your fellow League members with the hard work of making democracy more effective, more responsive without ever attending a meeting or joining a committee. Isn't that wonderful? Thank you so much for your support of the League.

Annie

Voter Service/Election Briefing

The October Briefing/Open Meeting on Voter Service and the November 8 Election will be on **Saturday, October 8** at 10 AM in Room 430.

Information about recent voter registration and other opportunities for LWV members related to the election, candidate information, referenda on the Chicago ballot, LWVUS Voting Rights activities, and review of past elections will be presented and discussed.

To be placed on the building security list for this meeting please contact the office at 312-939-5949 or email to League@LWVChicago.org.



Around Chicago League



LWVChicago, LWVCookCounty and LWVIL, official tenant, will be moving to Suite 634 at 332 S Michigan.



This suite will become the fourth location for LWV at the 332 S Michigan building! The

exact date of the move has not been determined because there is remodeling to be done.

Some meetings usually held in the suite's conference room will be relocated so check with the office or convener to be certain of the location.

The Open House/Holiday Party for LWVChicago members will be held in mid-December.

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

Membership Dues/Directory



Thank you to members who have renewed. To those who have notwe hope you will do so. To be included in the LWVChicago 2016-17 Membership Directory we need to hear from you. You can renew online or use the renewal form at LWVChicago.org

Welcome to New Members
Cecelia Menaker
Myrtis Meyer
Philip O'Sullivan
Julie Prom
Darcey Regan
Jean Rogers

Unit Meetings Topic: Voter Service/Election

Far Southwest Side Unit

Wednesday, October 28 – 7 PM

Home of Sheila Kush*

Leaders – Marcia Cowing, Betsy Perrine

Hyde Park Unit

Thursday, October 27 – 1:30 PM

Montgomery Place

Leaders – Susan Hamburger, Dorothy Scheff

Loop Unit – afternoon

Wednesday, October 5 – 1:30 PM

Home of Carol Ziegeldorf

Leaders – Norma Braude, Carol Ziegeldorf

Loop Unit – evening

Tuesday, October 18 – 5:30 PM

LWVChicago Conference Room

Leader – Margaret Herring

Loop Unit – morning

Thursday, October 20 – 10 AM

Room 430

Leader – Bernice Fortini

West Side Unit

Sunday, October 9 – 1:30 PM

Third Unitarian Church

301 N. Mayfield, Chicago

Leader – Joan Morton

*For address contact the office

Committee on Budgets in Formation

Are you interested in joining a small committee that will track the budgets of three fiscally challenged governments: the State, the City of Chicago and the Chicago Public Schools? We will do this on an informal basis as analyses of those budgets become available from the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability and the Civic Federation, plus any other reports. The convener, Nancy Brandt, says, "Quite a bit of reading; only a few meetings."

If you would like to find out more, please RSVP to League@lwvchicago.org or 312-939-5949.



Education Committee

The education committee met in September and reviewed action that was taken over the summer and plans for action this fall. We will be setting up meetings with members of the Illinois Senate and House education committees as well as the Chicago Teachers Union. We want to review our study guide and the pros and cons of an elected, appointed, and hybrid school board. Based on the results of our consensus the committee will discuss an independent audit committee for the Chicago Board of Education as a way of improving the community relations.



**Communities
In Schools**

Chicago

There are about 30 elementary schools and 9 high schools in Chicago that are designated as community schools.

The next meeting of the education committee will be Wednesday, October 19 at 10:00 am. This meeting will take place at Nancy Brandt's home. Contact the office for the address.

Rae Sokolow

LWV Lake Michigan Region

**It's not too late to register for
The Craft & Art of Saving Lake Michigan
Annual Conference & Meeting
The Spring House Inn, Porter, IN
October 14-15, 2016**

See LWV Lake Michigan Region for the schedule of terrific speakers, crisp fall weather, stimulating workshops with friends from four states.

Registration for the conference is \$75, and includes dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday.

Register Online Now

Reserve a room at the Inn on your own by contacting the Inn at (219) 929-4600.

Chicago in Focus



Mark your calendar for the next **Chicago in Focus -- Election Reflections** on November 10.

Health Care Report

Chicago

On September 23 Mayor Emanuel announced the opening of a new state of the art health center at Drake elementary school that will also serve students from other schools that are located in the nearby Bronzeville neighborhood.

The funding for the center will come in part from the new city tax on e-cigarettes. The mayor plans to have five more centers in place by 2017.

Presently the city has 32 school based health centers. Each year they serve about 21,000 students and families with essential healthcare and examinations with no cost to them.

Research has shown students who have access to school-based health centers have better attendance and less tardiness and truancy.

Federal



On September 22 Senator McConnell (R-KY) introduced legislation that would provide over a billion dollars for Zika research, along with \$500 million for repair of the damage from flooding in Louisiana, and prevent a government shutdown. However, this bill may fail, as others have done, if it contains riders that call for defunding of Planned Parenthood.

As school is starting, and Congress is returning from summer break, members of Congress are reacting to the recent publicity that the cost for the lifesaving EpiPen® has increased by 400%, since acquired by the pharmaceutical company Mylan in 2007.

On September 21 the drug manufacturer's CEO Heather Bresch underwent harsh bipartisan criticism during her appearance before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. However no action has been taken.

Margaret O'Hara

Voter Service

September has turned out to be the busiest month for Registration Events. By last count we have 15 newly trained Deputy Registrars, bringing our total to 42, many of whom have already been working at Registration Events. There have been over 20 of these events scheduled through LWVChicago, and many others have been staffed by League members working with other groups like their churches and libraries. Some schools, restaurants and businesses have also sponsored Registration Events that we have staffed. Recently, we have been asked to keep a count of the number of events and the number of people who were registered at them, so if you have information about any, please let the office know.

Registration by Deputy Registrars is permitted through October 11, so we will continue to send Registrars out where we can. After that, online registration is available through October 23. Anyone can encourage and assist citizens to register on-line at ova.elections.il.gov. You do not have to be a registrar to help people with this. There is an information sheet available if you would like to know more. Call or [email](#) the office to request one and we will email it to you.

News Alert

Same day voter registration in the precincts has been prohibited by a court order issued on September 27. This ruling will be appealed. Grace period registration remains available.

MOCK ELECTION



Besides registration there are volunteer opportunities related to the election itself. You can be an Election Judge, a Pollwatcher or help with Mock Elections in some high

schools. let the office know, 312-939-5949 or League@LWVChicago.org

A huge thank you to the Deputy Registrars who have staffed all of these events, and those that are coming. You have made all this possible, and furthered the mission of the League.

Cathy Potkay and Helene Gabelnick

Candidate and Ballot Information

Preliminary information about candidates may be found on:

Ballotpedia: ballotpedia.org/Main_Page

The Chicago Tribune:

elections.chicagotribune.com/candidates

Chicago Sun-Times: suntimescandidates.com and

Vote for Judges: voteforjudges.org

For General Election dates and more ballot information please see page 7 of this **Chicago Voter**.

Referendum on Recorder of Deeds

As detailed in the September **Chicago Voter**, LWVCookCounty is urging all voters to VOTE "YES" 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. This referendum will appear near the end of the ballot after all the retention judges.

Members of the League have been attending local league meetings to explain why people should support this referendum. Half-page handouts are available for all the local leagues, including Chicago. You can also print your own copy (2-sided, with 2 handouts to a page) directly from the Cook County League web site, where you will also find a [link](#) to where you can read the study.

Please help spread the word!

Video Voters' Guide

Starting October 10 there will be a Video Voters' Guide viewable at lwwcookcounty.org OR wttw.com/votersguide. The guide offers three 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.



Candidates were filmed at the WTTW studio and were able to choose what they wanted to say during their three minutes. The Cook County League is partnering again with WTTW to provide voters this opportunity to learn more about candidates running in the November 8 election.

Pris Mims

Recent Voting Rights Victories

The League of Women Voters won a major federal voting rights case when a federal appeals court on September 9 blocked Brian Newby, executive director of the US Election Assistance Commission, from unilaterally allowing Alabama, Georgia, and Kansas to demand that voters produce difficult-to-obtain proof of citizenship documentation when completing the federal mail voter registration form. This action has illegally kept voters from the polls, caused confusion, and threatened the lawful voter registration efforts of the League and other groups.

"With just weeks to go before a critical presidential election, we are grateful to the court of appeals for stopping this thinly veiled discrimination in its tracks," said Chris Carson, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

"We should be making voting easier, not harder. All eligible Americans deserve the opportunity to register and vote without obstacles," she added.

This decision comes just months after the League of Women Voters won a federal voting rights case in the state of North Carolina that reinstated voting rights in time for Election Day. The League has been fighting HB 589, a North Carolina omnibus voter suppression bill designed to limit the rights of voters, especially communities of color, since 2013.

"This decision is the latest in a string of major federal rulings that send a clear message: Politicians have no business standing in the way of our right to vote," said Mary Klenz, co-president of the League of Women Voters of North Carolina, a plaintiff in the case.

"With this ruling, League volunteers will be able to get back to what we do best: equipping voters with the information they need to cast a vote this year," continued Klenz. "We have a lot of work to do to make sure North Carolinians understand how this ruling affects them, and we stand ready to help millions of North Carolinians exercise their most fundamental right to vote."

"We are grateful to the Court of Appeals for seeing this bill for what it was: a race-based, chilling attempt to silence the voices of eligible voters," said Carson.



"As we've seen in Wisconsin and Texas, and now North Carolina, federal courts are calling foul on post-Shelby attempts to suppress voters' rights. Their rulings are loud and clear. Politicians do not control our democracy; voters do," Carson said.

Comparison of LWVUS positions with Democratic and Republican Party Platforms on three issues.

Voting Rights

LWVUS, in its support of protecting "the right of all citizens to vote," "opposes photo ID."

Dem: With the right to vote "at the heart of our national vision," there "must" be restoration of "the full protection of the Voting Rights Act." This means "expanding early voting and vote-by-mail, implementing universal automatic voter registration" and fighting "against discriminatory voter identification laws."

Rep: With a "pledge to protect the voting rights of every citizen" and a concern for honest elections, there is support for "photo-ID." In part, this means Republican Party "strongly oppose litigation against states exercising their sovereign authority to enact such laws."

**Gun Control**

LWVUS supports protection of "health & safety through limiting accessibility and regulation ownership of handguns & semiautomatic weapons."

Dem: With "respect {for} the rights of responsible gun owners," there is support to "expand & strengthen background checks" and to "keep weapons of war -- such as assault weapons & large capacity ammunition magazines (LCAM's) -- off our streets."

Rep: To "uphold the right of individuals to keep and bear arms" as a "natural inalienable right," "oppose federal licensing or registration of law-abiding gun owners" and "oppose ill-conceived laws that would restrict magazine capacity or ban the sale of the most popular and common modern rifle."

Reproductive Rights

LWVUS supports protecting "the constitutional right of individual privacy to make reproductive choices."

Dem: With a commitment "to protecting & advancing reproductive health, rights, & justice," Democrats "believe that every woman should have access to quality reproductive health care, including safe and legal abortion, will continue to oppose Republican efforts to defund Planned Parenthood health centers.

Rep: Republicans "support a human life amendment to the Constitution and legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to children before birth." The Party also "opposes the use of public funds to perform or promote abortion or to fund organizations, like Planned Parenthood, so long as they provide or refer for elective abortions or sell fetal body parts rather than provide healthcare."

From: LWVIL Election 2016

Increasing Voter Turnout in Illinois



At a rate of 58 percent in 2012, voter turnout in Illinois was higher than average across the US. It fell well short of the rate in other states, such as Wisconsin and Minnesota, however, which averaged 70 percent, according to data from the Illinois Campaign for Political

Reform. Speakers at the ICPR's Second Annual Summit for Action & Civic Reform on September 15 discussed ways of improving voting rates in Illinois.

Celina Villanueva, Civic Engagement Manager from the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, believes that more diversity on the ballot could drive turnout. "Communities of color do not see ourselves represented in candidates on the ballot," she said. Turnout in states such as Wisconsin may benefit by same-day voter registration or automatic registration through driver's license applications, said former Illinois State Senator and State Representative Daniel Biss, PhD.



Jerrick Adams, Jim Allen, John Opdycke, Daniel Bliss, Noah Praetz, Celina Villanueva. Photo from ICPR.

Early voting does not tend to boost turnout, said Jim Allen, Communications Director at the Chicago Board of Elections. Rates remain steady at 10 percent for primaries and 25 percent in early voting states in the general election, he said. However, Allen sees value in one option that has been used in other states to boost voter turnout – open primaries. Primary elections that do not require voters to ask for a specific party ballot may increase turnout by eliminating the intimidation some voters feel by declaring party affiliation.

California, for example, has a top-two tiered primary system that allows voters to vote for the top two candidates regardless of their political party. The open primary in California has led to a 2016 general election contest between two Democrats for US Senate.

Open primaries have other potential advantages. They may "create opportunities [for] new coalitions and dialogues to break out from the rigid silos of Democrats and Republicans," said John Opdycke, President of Open Primaries, an organization that monitors primary systems across the country. "In a traditional primary, you might have to be the most conservative Republican or the most liberal Democrat [candidate to get on the ballot], but [the top-two system] could take away the extremes," Allen agreed.

ICPR and Karen Sandrick

Panel Discussion: What Is the Latino Vote?

October 6, 6:00 pm

Quadrangle Club, 1155 E. 57th Street

Leaders of both major political parties seek current and future support from the more than 27 million eligible Hispanic voters in the US—the coveted "Latino Vote." Yet Latinos live in different parts of the US, identify with multiple racial categories, and/or have past and present family members who come from various regions in Latin America and beyond. Given this diversity, is it possible to talk about Latino voters without miscasting them as a monolithic community? And given our current political climate, who benefits and who loses from grouping this diverse population into a single category?

Explore these questions with moderator Emilio Kourí, Professor of History, University of Chicago, and panelists G. Cristina Mora, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of California Berkeley; Geraldo L. Cadava, Associate Professor of History, Northwestern University; Jesús "Chuy" García, Cook County Commissioner, 7th District; Ana Gonzalez-Barrera, Senior Researcher, Pew Research Center.

Free. For more information, contact Claudia at cgiribaldi@uchicago.edu or Ireri Rivas at mirivas@uchicago.edu.

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Helene Gabelnick, Karen Sandrick	Voter Editors

**November 8, 2016
General Election Dates**

- **Now through – Nov. 3:** Apply for vote by mail ballot
return postmark by Nov 8
- **Sept. 29 – Nov 7:** Early voting at Board of Elections
- **Oct. 11 – last day to register to vote**
except for
- **Oct. 23** – Online registration deadline
ova.elections.il.gov
- **Oct. 12 – Nov. 7:** Grace Period registration
must vote at same time
- **Oct. 24 – Nov. 7:** Early Voting at selected sites
- **November 8 Election Day**
Vote and register at your assigned polling place

Chicago Board of Elections

312-269-7900 www.chicagoelections.com

To verify your registration, find your polling place and your districts, view a sample ballot, apply for a vote by mail ballot, and find early and grace period voting sites.



League of Women Voters of Chicago
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The League

- is non-partisan,
- takes stands on issues, but never on candidates or parties,
- encourages informed participation in government.

BE INFORMED, THEN VOTE

Chicago Voters will elect:

President and Vice President of the United States
U.S. Senator and Representatives in U.S. Congress
State Comptroller
State Senators
 2-year terms in Districts 2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20
 4-year terms in Districts 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 28
Representatives in the Illinois General Assembly
Commissioners of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
 3 for 6-year terms 1 for unexpired 2-year term
Cook County State's Attorney, Circuit Court Clerk, Recorder of Deeds
Members of the Cook County Board of Review
 District 1 for 4-year term, District 2 for 2-year term
Judges (Appellate and Circuit Courts)
Judicial Retention Ballot

Illinois Constitutional Amendment (Binding)

Whether to amend the Illinois Constitution to require that all transportation taxes (including vehicle licenses and titles, as well as government fees on different forms of transportation) be spent only on transportation projects (roads, highways, bridges, airports and mass transit) and related administration costs.

Cook County Binding Referendum

Shall the Office of the Cook County Recorder of Deeds be eliminated and all duties and responsibilities of the Office of the Cook County Recorder of Deeds be transferred to, and assumed by, the Office of the Cook County Clerk by December 7, 2020?

Cook County Advisory Referendum

Shall Illinois enact the Earned Sick Time for Employees Act which will allow Illinois workers to earn up to 40 hours of sick time a year to take care of their own health or a family member's health?

City of Chicago Advisory Referenda

1. Should the State of Illinois strengthen penalties for the illegal trafficking of firearms and require background checks for gun dealers and their employees?
2. Should the State of Illinois provide full and equitable funding for the Chicago Public Schools?
3. Should the City of Chicago work with the Federal Government and the State of Illinois to prioritize significant new investments in important infrastructure like roads, bridges, public transportation, river and lakefront redevelopment, and additional green space?