



The Chicago Voter

League of Women Voters of Chicago, 332 S Michigan, Suite 634

Website - www.LWVChicago.org

August 2017

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## *President's Message*

Dear Members,

We just completed our board planning meeting for 2017-2018, and we have a lot of great ideas. We're looking forward to a year with more units in more neighborhoods, a great schedule for Chicago in Focus and monthly briefings, and a task force working on the March 2018 primary election. See the schedules for Briefings and Chicago in Focus on pages 2 and 3 in this **Chicago Voter**. It's all very exciting – and a lot of hard work, a little intimidating some days. Still, we're up for that!

One of the interesting aspects of being part of such an established organization is how the mode of the League changes from time to time. Sometimes, our role is to study. Other times, it is to take action. No matter what, we stick to our basic principles: we are non-partisan, we influence public policy through both education and advocacy, and we encourage active and informed citizen participation in government. The tactics may change, but the mission remains the same.

And that brings me to one important note: things may change! Last summer, the board put together a great plan that was upended by the results of the 2016 presidential election. We now have many new and enthusiastic members, added programs in Chicago in Focus to look specifically at the election, and looked for new ways to make our voice heard. Likewise, the ongoing budget crisis in Springfield pushed our education advocacy work toward lobbying the state legislature. As the year unfolds, we'll adjust our plans as needed. No matter what, it will be a **Year of Engagement**.

**Annie Logue**



## Schedule of Unit Socials

Our communications methods are changing! Evites for Unit Socials in August have been sent by email from [PresLWVChicago@gmail.com](mailto:PresLWVChicago@gmail.com). In case you missed it, the dates and locations are given below with a link to the invitation and RSVP. Call the office (312-939-5949) for more information.

[South Side Unit](#): Monday, **August 14**, 6 PM, 5025 S Woodlawn

[Loop Morning Unit](#): Thursday, **August 17**, 10 AM LWV Office Suite 634 Conference Room

[Loop Evening Unit](#): Wednesday, **August 23**, 5:30 PM, LWV Office Suite 634 Conference Room

[North Side Unit](#): Wednesday, **August 23**, 6:30 pm Gideon Welles Restaurant Meeting Room 4500 N. Lincoln Ave.

[Hyde Park](#): Thursday, **August 24**, 1:30 PM, Montgomery Place 5550 S South Shore Dr.

[Far Southwest](#): Wednesday, **August 30**, 7 PM. Beverly Castle Unitarian Church 10244 S Longwood Drive

[West Side Unit](#): TBA Third Unitarian Church, 301 N Mayfield

# 2017-2018 LWV CHICAGO BRIEFINGS

Want to be truly informed? Come to the briefings. Briefings are open meetings where you can hear in-depth presentations and discussions of the League's current issues and action.



## League 101

Learn about the organization and procedures of the League, how it functions and how you can become

involved.

**September 9, 10:00-Noon, Room 430.**



## Engaging Voters in the 2018 Primaries

Voter Service activities and actions.

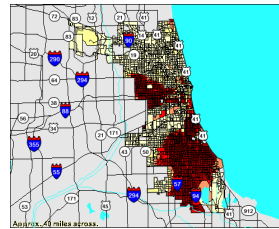
**February 10, 10:00 - Noon, Room 430.**



## Tax-Increment Financing: A Controversy of Funding

Ben Joravsky explains what's good and bad about tax-incremental financing (TiFs) and how it can be reformed.

**October 14, 10:00-Noon, Room 430**



## Costs of Segregation

March Date and speaker to be determined.



## Social Policy/Housing

Topic and speaker to be determined.

**November 11, 10:00 - Noon, Room 430**



## Fostering Student Success

Speaker on support services in schools to be determined.

**April 14, 10:00 am -Noon, Room 430.**



## Health Care

Topic and speaker to be determined. **January 13, 10:00- Noon, Room 430.**



## Environment

Topic and speaker to be determined.

**May 12, 10:00-Noon, Room 430.**



## 2017-2018 CHICAGO IN FOCUS CALENDAR

***Chicago in Focus*** is an educational program co-sponsored by LWVChicago and The Union League Club of Chicago. It is free and open to the public.



### **NO BAIL ISSUES: UNJUST INCARCERATION**

Sheriff Tom Dart provides A Look Inside a Broken System.

**Monday, September 25  
5:30 pm, Union League Club.**



### **SECURE THE VOTE**

Marisel Hernandez and James Allen, Chicago Board of Election Commissioners.

**Thursday, January 25, 5:30 pm  
Union League Club.**



### **SANCTUARY CITIES**

ACLU's Rebecca Glenberg, lead attorney on immigration issues, discusses the status and threats to Chicago as a Sanctuary City.

**Tuesday, October 18, 5:30 pm  
Union League Club.**



### **ART AND DEMOCRACY**

Theaster Gates discusses Rebuild Foundation and the revitalization of poor neighborhoods through urban planning and art.

**Monday, February 26, 5:30 pm  
Union League Club.**



### **COOK COUNTY HOSPITAL**

### **AND HEALTH SYSTEM**

Guest Speaker: Hil Hammock.

**Thursday, November 30, 5:30 pm,  
Union League Club.**



### **CHICAGO'S AMAZING UNDERGROUND PASSAGEWAY**

The Pedway: How Can We Improve It?

**Thursday, April 19, 5:30 pm  
Union League Club.**

## Welcome to New Members

*Deborah Barnes  
Larry Lefferts  
Eric Norstrom  
Charles Potkay  
Shirley Wooten Steedley  
Merle Tresser  
Katherine Yoshida*

*Donations to the  
Tribute Fund  
In Memory of Member  
Thomas Kallen*

*From  
Norma Braude  
Hollis Burgess  
Jan Flapan  
Helene Gabelnick  
Joanne Kruger  
Estelle London  
Margaret O'Hara  
Cathy Potkay  
Rochelle Riffer  
Dorothy Scheff  
Lenora Schur  
Rae Sokolow  
Kim Stone and Ken Wexler  
Carol and Herbert Ziegeldorf*



method may be used by applicants who are in the Illinois Secretary of State's data base with a driver's license or State ID. Share this web site ([ova.elections.il.gov](http://ova.elections.il.gov)) with anyone needing to register.

### On Line Voter Registration

[Register](#) to vote any time, anywhere with a smart phone or from your computer. This

*Helene Gabelnick*

## Voter Service Committee Report

Pat Wilder has agreed to coordinate distribution of information about Online Voter Registration to high school students when they register for classes this September. To participate let [us know](#).

Julie Shelton is planning to coordinate members to help work with the Oak Park/River Forest LWV project to register inmates at the Cook County Jail.

Seventeen members indicated an interest in helping to organize a Voter Turnout Forum.

LWVChicago will again be available to register voters at Chicago Housing Authority's Operation Warm on Saturday, October 28 from 8:00am 1:00pm at UIC Forum.

### National Voter Registration Day

Tuesday, September 26

Several members indicated that they were aware of groups wanting to schedule registration activities on this date. No scheduling has been done yet. Interested in helping? [Let us know](#).

### Voter suppression/Voter fraud

There will be a public meeting of the Illinois State Board of Elections in Chicago on Tuesday, August 22, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. The public may attend to hear the discussion of the State Board's [response](#) to the request from the Election Integrity Commission. Jo Elle Munchak has been in contact with LWVUS who has issued a [statement](#) about the Commission.

## Deputy Voter Registrar Training Classes

**Schedule for DVR Training classes at the Chicago Board of Elections:**

### August 2017

Wednesday, August 16 – 3:00 pm

Saturday, August 26 – 9:30 am

### September 2017

Thursday, September 7 – 6:00 pm

Wednesday, September 13 – 3:00 pm

Saturday, September 30 – 9:30 am

To be enrolled in one of the classes listed above you must be a registered voter in Chicago.

Please send an [email](#) the LWVChicago office at least **five days** before the scheduled class. Include your name, address, phone and email and specify the class you would like to attend.



## ACA Update



On July 28 the US Senate failed to pass the so called "skinny bill" to repeal and replace the ACA. Since this was the

last of several bills proposed in the Senate and it failed to pass Mitch McConnell, the Senate Majority Leader, has announced that at this time he will not pursue any more repeal and replace legislation.

However, there are still concerns regarding the ACA. The beginning of August Insurers on the Private Marketplace began reporting increases in premiums. In Illinois Blue Cross and Blue Shield covers about 310,000 people. Their planned increases in Illinois are 38.2% for BlueCare Direct HMO, 14.5 for Blue Precision HMO, 9.3 for Blue FocusCare HMO, and 5.4 for Blue Choice PPO. Other Illinois insurers also expect increases. , Cigna an average of 37.7%, Health Alliance Medical Plans as much as 43%, and Celtic about 15%.

Insurance companies report that they are concerned about uncertainties in the market going forward. They are worried by the fact that the President could take action without congressional approval to weaken the ACA. In setting up prices for plans for 2018 they consider the fact that the individual mandate and/or federal subsidies may go away.



The Kaiser Family Foundation has issued an informative brief on the near-term outlook for the ACA. A link for the

brief is here. [tinyurl.com/Kaiser-report](http://tinyurl.com/Kaiser-report)

Medicaid expansion has been very important to Illinois, providing adequate health care to many, and providing health related jobs. At the present time there are no cuts to Medicaid, but this was a central part of the replace and repeal movement, so it may come under threat again soon.

Concerns about health insurance should remain on the legislators' radar. Please contact your senators and congressmen, and tell them how important this issue is, point out your concerns with what has been happening in Washington.



LWVIL has joined with [Protect Our Care IL](#) (POCIL)

coalition to advocate for no repeal without adequate replacement, see their web for planned actions.

**Margaret O'Hara**

## Get in on the Ground Floor: Join an Issue Committee

The best way to learn about how the League works is to take part in an issue committee. Committees study, advocate for, and raise awareness of city laws and policies related to their subject area. In researching their issues, committees review current League positions (at all levels) and draw on previous League studies.

We have recently activated two committees with new members and fresh ideas. In addition, we have expanded the existing Education Committee into daytime and evening committees.



Our **Environment Committee** is investigating matters of public environmental health. How will Chicago honor its commitments under

the Paris Agreement, as Mayor Emanuel has pledged? What is the City doing to address heavy metal contaminants, such as lead and manganese? The committee is currently developing its first focus areas, and the input of new members is welcome. Contact Sarah Bury and/or Andy Daglas via the [office](#).



Our **Chicago Government Committee** is ready to fly after many years of discussion. This is a quintessential League kind of committee: observing, researching, analyzing, and suggesting improvements.

Tentative plans call for observing the City Council and its Finance Committee; investigating the quantity and quality of information on the City's website; and understanding the City's budget process with an eye towards improving its transparency and accessibility. And, in good League fashion, the committee will review both current League positions as well as state statutes under which the City must operate. Contact Margaret Herring via the [office](#).



Our **Education Committee** (Daytime) is busy investigating Chicago Public Schools' lack of support services, such as counselors, social workers, psychologists, nurses, and librarians. They will research

the reasons for these shortages, and compare CPS' level of support services with that of other large metropolitan school systems as well as well-funded suburban districts and with national guidelines. In the future, the committee will investigate best practices for closing schools and for determining facility utilization. Contact Rae Sokolow via the [office](#).

Our **Education Committee** (Evening) has just begun to investigate what kind of financial reports are customary for school boards to receive from their districts' administration. A future project will be determining best practices for evaluating contracts and contract renewals by boards of education. Observation of the Chicago Board of Education has shown that it receives minimal information at best in these two areas, at least publicly. Another line of inquiry will be into Community Schools: what they are, how they operate, where they are located, and plans for adding more to their number. Contact Nancy Brandt via the [office](#).

## Membership Committee

The **Membership Committee** will meet at 6 p.m. on Tuesday,

September 5 in the League conference room.

Not a member of the committee but would like to take part? Please come! A healthy membership is key to a healthy League and your contribution can make a difference. We've collected some great ideas for attracting new members and retaining our existing members. Come and share yours! [RSVP](#) Please.

*Pat Graunke*

## News from other LWVs

### From LWVIL

#### League Sets Date for State of the State

LWVIL will host U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth at its annual luncheon on October 11. Former CBS TV investigative reporter Renee Ferguson will moderate. Mark your calendars!

### From LWVUS

#### League Opposes 'Election Integrity' Commission, Acquires e.thePeople

On July 19 League of Women Voters president **Chris Carson** issued the following statement in response to the first meeting of the 'Election Integrity' Commission: "This Commission is undermining the public's confidence in our elections. We've already seen thousands of voters cancel their registrations since Commission vice-chair and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach requested personal voter information from all 50 states...This fishing expedition for voter information is intended to lead to more voter suppression – not improving our election process. Our elections have integrity. This Commission does not."

A few days before this announcement, LWVUS announced that it had accepted as a gift the technology and assets of [e.thePeople](#), the nation's leading provider of interactive voter guide software. The gift further solidifies the League as the most trusted source for election information. "Since 2010 the League has used technology provided by e.thePeople to create ballot information on VOTE411.org, which in 2016 helped nearly 4.5 million people," said Carson. "Direct management of the technology will allow us to enhance the product for the League, as well as the many current and future partners of e.thePeople."



### Support the 50th Anniversary Fundraiser for LWVLMR

Help celebrate the 50th anniversary of Leagues of Women Voters working together for Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes.

[Contributions](#) will support important advocacy work and are not tax deductible.