

Redistricting Report

Paula Lawson, Issue Specialist

Illinois Redistricting Collaborative

The *Illinois Redistricting Collaborative*, the coalition of organizations working on redistricting in Illinois, met on October 23. The group has developed *Redistricting Principles, Strategies to Promote Changes in Redistricting and a Gerrymandering Survey for Gubernatorial Candidates*. LWVIL has been asked to sign onto the Redistricting Principles. These principles fit in well with the LWVUS Redistricting position. The group will likely ask Illinois state legislative candidates to complete a survey on redistricting, sponsor events to educate the public, and work to have the Illinois General Assembly place a Constitutional Amendment on the 2018 or 2020 General Election Ballot.

LWV Downers Grove/Woodridge/Lisle meeting on Gerrymandering

The LWV Downers Grove/Woodridge/Lisle is sponsoring a meeting on Gerrymandering as part of its Civics in Action Series on Wednesday, November 29 from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm at the Downers Grove Park District, Lincoln Center, [935 Maple Ave, Downers Grove](#). Speakers are Jeff Raines, Communications and Engagement Director at CHANGE IL and Jay Young, Political Director at Common Cause IL. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

Gill v. Whitford

The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) heard oral arguments for the Wisconsin gerrymandering case, *Gill v. Whitford* on October 3. Gill examines the constitutionality of the partisan gerrymandering effected by the Wisconsin legislature. SCOTUS has interceded numerous times and overturned maps based on racial gerrymandering, but *Gill* is presenting a huge test about the use of party ID and affiliation, merit similar scrutiny.

The last time a partisan gerrymander case was heard at the Supreme Court, Justice Kennedy noted that there was no way to test and measure when normal political instincts turned into an unconstitutional dilution of someone else's vote and when that line was crossed. The lawyers in *Whitford* hope to present this case as an extreme and clear-cut example of that line being crossed. They believe a test called the "efficiency gap", which measures the difference between the parties' respective wasted votes in an election divided by the total number of votes cast, will determine and stop future gerrymanders.