

Issues Specialists Monthly Reports

August 2018

Campaign Finance – Paula Lawson & Elizabeth Lindquist

The Just Democracy Coalition Working Group on Money in Politics convened a conference call on 8/2/18. The Working Group is chaired by Ibie Hart of Common Cause IL. The group is working on establishing a Small Donor Public Financing System for Aldermanic Candidates in Evanston, IL. Participants in the call were asked what government entities their organizations would be interested in working to have a Small Donor Matching System adopted. Systems for State Legislators, Cook County Commissioners and Chicago Aldermen were suggested. LWVIL will work to have a System adopted for the IL Legislature. The LWVs of Cook County and Chicago will be contacted to assess their interest in working for adoption of Small Donor Systems for Commissions and Aldermen.

Represent.Us hosted an informative half day convening in Chicago on vouchers with leaders on the subject from across the country which Elizabeth attended.

Rep. Kelly Cassidy will be reintroducing the state small donor matching bill in January.

Climate: Air and Energy – Di Niesman

The Supreme Court has said that the U.S. government must defend itself in a lawsuit, Juliana vs. US, brought by 21 children from around the country (Our Children's Trust Climate Lawsuit). The trial starts October 29, 2018 in Oregon. LWVUS fully supports the lawsuit.

The Trump Administration continues to rollback pollution standards. It sees no economic need to conserve oil, disregarding the environmental need to do so. It wants coal states to set their own emissions standards. It proposes revoking California's auto emissions rules.

The State of Illinois, via Attorney General Lisa Madigan, is fighting against the above mentioned auto emissions revocation, the USEPA over a loophole in super polluting trucks, and a Trump gas mileage freeze.

Consolidation of Governmental Units – Jane Ballengee

Transform IL is in the process of accepting nominations for 2018 Transformer awards. These are awards that directly relate to the following criteria and can be either state, local or citizen's awards.

1. Simplified processes to reduce administrative burden;
2. Collaborated with neighboring governments to leverage efficiencies;
3. Deployed technology to streamline and speed operations;
4. Developed and uses metrics and performance assessment tools or processes;
5. Changed policies or legislation resulting in cost savings and/or high level of service;

The nominations will close as of September 17th and award winners are invited to receive their awards and participate in a brief moderated panel discussion at the 4th annual fall conference on October 11 at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business/Gleacher Center, 450 N. Cityfront Plaza (in the loop), Chicago.

Development of financial health indicators:

At the last Transform Illinois meeting members endorsed a proposal, and centers on the development of financial health indicators. Once approved a meeting was set including Annie McGowan, Senior

Research Associate for The Civic Federation, Sarah Wetmore from the Civic Federation, Shannon Sohl from the Northern Illinois University Center for Governmental Studies, and Susan Garrett from the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform to meet with staff in the comptroller's office as an overview of objectives. The results of that meeting will be discussed at the Transform IL August 30 meeting. It will be important for the member organizations to understand they will be asked to contribute some time towards administering and tabulating survey results from local governments. Once we have additional information this will be brought to the LWVIL Board for discussion.

Bill Signing: Governor Rauner signed legislation authorizing DuPage County to dissolve its Election Commission (HB 5123) on Monday, July 23, at noon, in Wheaton at the County Complex

Questions for candidates were circulated to all Leagues via the last E-News.

Criminal Justice – Janet Kittlaus

Bills signed by the Governor:

HB4741 (PA100.0677)

HB5341(PA100-0776). LWVIL signed on to a letter urging the Governor to sign HB5341.

HB5494 (PA100.0692)

SB3388 (PA100-0999)

SB3503 (PA100-0947)

Bill amended by the Governor and returned to the General Assembly:

HB4469 was returned to General Assembly by the Governor with an amendatory veto, deleting the provision to inform those released from IDOC of their voting rights. LWVIL is sending a TFA, asking the GA to reject the amendatory veto.

Bills awaiting the Governor's action: TFAs are prepared for these.

HB4208, HB5104, SB3023, SB3388.

Juvenile Justice – Janet Kittlaus

HB4581 got as far as 3rd reading in the House but failed to advance any further. It is hoped that this legislation will be enacted in the future as it would pave the way for further recognition that emerging adults (18-25) need to be put into a developmentally appropriate justice system, thereby reducing recidivism and preventing deeper criminal involvement.

The Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council has issued a report, [**The High Cost of Recidivism**](#)

The average cost is \$151,662 per recidivism event; over five years the cost would be \$13 Billion.

An article from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority entitled [**The Cost of Justice**](#) focuses on the impact of criminal justice financial obligations on individuals and families. While Criminal Justice Financial Obligations are intended to punish wrongdoers, fund system activities, or deter future crime, those with lower socioeconomic status and in predominately minority communities are more likely to bear the burden of these costs. Thus, citizens are penalized for their poverty, and a cycle of criminal justice involvement is perpetuated.

Equity and Diversity – Sheri Latash

Unlike other Issues portfolios, this one is not focused on legislation & regulation. Instead, its scope (at least at the present time) is emphasizing awareness of the range of issues we cover and the disproportionate impact on communities of color, providing resources and opportunities to address

race-related topics on the local level, building bridges to communities of color and the organizations representing them, and rectifying the inequities created by officially sanctioned government practices.

Healthcare - Janet Craft and Margaret O'Hara

Bills followed this session

SB 3015 SA 2 & 3 Stock Asthma Rescue Medication in Schools

Amends school code to permit schools to voluntarily stock asthma rescue medication.

Passed both Houses and signed by the Governor and became **Public Act 100-076**.

SB2332, No Tobacco Products under 21 prohibits sale and distribution of tobacco products including electronic cigarettes, alternative nicotine products. 5/30 passed both Houses, 6/29 sent to Governor. On August 2nd TFA was sent for members to contact the Governor, requesting he sign two important Healthcare Bills:

HB 4165 HA1 Do No Harm Healthcare Act requires the General Assembly to ensure any proposed federal waiver or attempt to restrict access to healthcare to Illinois citizens is open to public debate, oversight and scrutiny, by the Illinois Legislature.

HB2624 SA3 Short Term Limited Duration Health Insurance Act protects consumers by establishing a maximum coverage of 181 days in a given year; requires clearly written disclosures on all sales and marketing. On August 9th we joined other members of Protect Our Care and mailed on LWVIL stationery a?! Letter of Support for **HB2624** to Governor Rauner.

Immigration Report - Kim Reed

National Front: LWVUS and LWVIL continued urging members to register comments with the US Department of Commerce opposing a citizenship question on the US Census. There are still over 500 children separated from their parents--despite a court order mandating their reunification with parents--and the White House is proposing more inhumane immigration policies, such as the Public Charge Rule, intensifying fear in immigrant communities. Furthermore, DACA & the DREAM Act remain in limbo with different Federal Courts weighing in. Both LWVIL and LWVUS participated in the Keep Families Together March in Chicago, held during the LWVUS Convention in June.

LWVIL: A TFA went out calling for League members to submit comments to Department of Commerce opposing a citizenship question, and LWVIL President Bonnie Cox sent a letter. TFAs went gone out, asking our members to urge the governor to sign these bills: **SB35 Immigration Safe Zones Act; SB34 VOICES Act (Supports Domestic Violence and Trafficking Survivors); SB3488 Anti-Registry Act (Resist Registry Programs Targeting Ethnic and Religious Groups).**

At the LWVUS Convention, LWVIL hosted an Immigration Caucus, “What are Your Leagues Doing to Advocate on Behalf of Immigrants & Refugees, & How are You Combating Xenophobia?” This was an opportunity for local and state Leagues around the country to share their concerns and actions. At the caucus, we heard from two Illinois Leagues, Lake County & Rockford, both of which have been extremely active on immigration, and we were briefed by Senator Durbin staffer, Greg Bales, on what's happening in Washington, D.C.

Local Leagues continue to offer educational programs on immigration.

Mental Health – Lynn Liston

National

The NAMI National Priorities focus on access to mental health and substance abuse treatment. National priorities include rejecting Medicaid caps and block grants that affect innovations and can force state funding cuts, supporting Medicaid expansion using an income-based eligibility, ensuring that all market-based plans include mental health and substance abuse treatment, and

Parental Addiction Throughout the nation, more states are adopting the practice to keep the mother and child together while the mother participates in a drug rehabilitation treatment. The Hill

www.thehill.com

discusses that some states do not automatically consider drug exposure as child abuse. Therefore, these states have more flexibility in serving the family unit. These policies are aimed at reducing the number of children entering foster care systems, and focus on allowing children to be physically present at the location where parents get treatment, especially considering that every 15 minutes a baby is born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome.

State

The Healthy Minds/Healthy Lives Coalition had championed HB4950/SB2951 Early Mental Health and Addictions Treatment Act Reps. Feigenholtz – Andersson – Hurley, Conroy, Lang, G. Harris, Fine, Willis, Gabel Sens. Bush – Althoff – McGuire – Morrison – Collins, Righter, Hunter, McConaughay, Bennett, Hastings. June 22, 2018 SB2951 passed and was sent to the governor. This bill creates Medicaid pilots for early mental health treatment of youth and early engagement of persons with opioid and other addictions.