LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF ILLINOIS

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September 16, 2025

Governor JB Pritzker
Office of the Governor
401 S. Spring St.
Springfield, IL 62704

Dear Governor Pritzker,

In this, our annual letter to you and other elected Illinois leaders, the League of Women Voters of Illinois expresses our appreciation for your steadfast defense of the rights of Illinois residents including protecting reproductive freedoms, our right to vote, the right to due process, and other fundamental protections under the law.

In today's political climate, the mission of the League—to defend democracy and engage voters through nonpartisan political action—has never been more critical. This year, our legislative priorities center on two overarching goals:

- **Strengthening Democratic Processes**
- **Promoting Dignity and Opportunity for All Illinois Residents**

STRENGTHEN DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

To ensure a robust, functioning democracy, we urge Illinois lawmakers to pursue legislative solutions that:

Preserve voter access

We ask the state to continue its support of vote-by-mail and simplification of voter registration, and reject policies that restrict access to the ballot—such as mandatory voter ID laws. Additionally, we urge the state to respect and protect the privacy of detailed voter data.

Refresh Campaign Finance Laws

We encourage you and members of the General Assembly to establish narrower guidelines for campaign contributions and spending. Competitive elections increase voter engagement and foster public confidence in the democratic process because voters believe their votes matter. Updating campaign finance laws will encourage more candidates to run for office – especially those with limited financial backing.

Improve Government Transparency, Accountability and Integrity

Responsible democracies must regularly work to build trust and foster citizen engagement. To that end, we support legislation that accomplishes the following:

- Requires lawmakers to disclose conflicts of interest before they vote, and to recuse themselves under clearly defined rules.
- Establishes an independent Inspector General with enforcement powers for legislative ethics violations.
- Places limitations on the use of shell bills that undermine community input and suppress participation by minority party representatives.
- Subjects Illinois' courts to state FOIA requirements bringing judiciary transparency in line with other branches of government.

PROMOTE DIGNITY AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL RESIDENTS

The League of Women Voters of Illinois is deeply concerned about federal spending cuts that dismantle safety nets and threaten the infrastructure of our public education system. We are equally concerned by the erosion of human and Constitutional rights. We call on Illinois lawmakers to shield Illinois residents from the impact of federal actions, and we recognize that doing so may require identifying additional sources of revenue.

Our priorities in this area are to:

- **Ensure access to healthy food and other basic needs**, particularly for children.
- **Fund quality public education** with wrap-around services that support learning and student well-being.
- **De-criminalize homelessness** everywhere in Illinois.
- **Uphold non-discrimination** with equal application of rights and laws.
- **Protect our right to free speech and peaceful assembly** during these turbulent times.

We look forward to working with you and the General Assembly as Illinois navigates the challenges ahead, and will appreciate an opportunity to weigh in on election legislation.

Respectfully,
Becky Simon, President
League of Women Voters of Illinois