

# NATURAL RESOURCES

## Summary of League of Women Voters of the United States Position and Major Action by Illinois Leagues under the LWVUS Positions

**Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest by recognizing the interrelationships of air quality, energy, land use, waste management and water resources.**

(positions reached 1958 - 1986)

**AGRICULTURE POLICY** (1988): Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

**LWVIL action** No recent action.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND POLLUTION CONTROL:** Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with the maximum protection of public health and the environment.

**LWVIL action**

**Air Quality** LWVIL continues to monitor state implementation of the 1990 Clean Air Act and particularly supports efforts to control acid rain damage in a manner that preserves the environmentally sound use of Illinois coal. As the seriousness of global warming became more evident, the League, in 2000, began monitoring clean air legislation. In 2001, the League lobbied for legislation strengthening Illinois' resolve to limit the quantities of emissions from fossil fuel-fired electric generating plants, the single largest industrial air pollution source in the Midwest.

In 2002, Illinois faced the possibility of increased air pollution and health risks due to the federal government's attempt to weaken or delay implementation of a key provision of the Federal Clean Air Act, the New Source Review program. This provision protects Americans from increases in pollution by establishing pollution reduction requirements for aging coal-burning power plants and other major pollution sources. Since 2003, LWVIL has supported state legislation that establishes state clean air rules to replace the federal rollbacks on the New Source Review provisions of the Clean Air Act. In 2005, the LWVIL expressed their appreciation in a letter to United States Senator Barack Obama for his opposition to the Administration's "Clear Skies" legislative initiative, a plan that would weaken or delay the implementation of the Clean Air Act.

In January 2006, Governor Blagojevich issued a proposal to set strict mercury emission limits for coal-fired power plants. In response, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a draft rule requiring nearly every coal-fired power plant in Illinois to install and operate available technologies by 2009 and capture no less than 90

percent of mercury pollution by 2015. This rule was adopted by the Illinois Pollution Control Board (IPCB) and approved by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules of the Illinois General Assembly. Local Leagues and League members held forums, wrote letters and contacted legislators during the entire rule-making process for the successful passage of the Mercury Rule.

Illinois also addressed in 2006 and 2007 other major sources of mercury pollution. LWVIL supported legislation introduced in the Illinois General Assembly that promoted the recycling and phasing out of mercury from consumer products as well as various measuring devices.

League members lobbied successfully in support of the Smoke Free Illinois Act which was signed into law in 2007 and prohibits smoking in public places and places of employment

Clean Car Act: The Illinois League, as part of the Illinois Climate Action Network, strongly supports legislation that would require automakers to meet the same high emissions standards for new cars and light trucks already set in 14 other states. The automakers, over a ten-year period, would be required to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced by new vehicles sold in Illinois and ultimately would reach the new emissions standard by 2020.

On June 30, 2009, the federal EPA granted California a waiver to the Clean Air Act granting that state the right to set auto emissions standards that are higher than the federal standards. An additional section of the Clean Car Act allows other states to adopt the California motor vehicle standards. In the Illinois House, Karen May introduced a new Illinois Clean Car Act in February 2009 that incorporated the California standards; it was re-referred to the Rules Committee in May 2009.

**Climate Change** Recognizing the need to address climate change, Governor Blagojevich issued in 2006 an Executive Order on climate change and greenhouse gas reduction. The Illinois Climate Change Advisory Group was created for the purpose of considering the various policies and strategies to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions in Illinois; a comprehensive Statewide Climate Action Plan was to be presented to the Governor by June 2007. LWVIL was invited to join the Illinois Climate Change Advisory Group and attended meetings held in Chicago and Springfield in 2007.

In 2007, various local Leagues expressed interest in helping their local communities lessen their impact on global climate change and joined the Sierra Club's "Cool Cities" program. This program sets up guidelines encouraging units of local governments in the State to endorse the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. A plan for greenhouse gas reduction that best suits the community's needs may also be provided. LWVIL supported legislation introduced in 2007 in the Illinois General Assembly that would allow the Environmental Protection Agency to provide technical assistance to those local communities that endorsed the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

**Energy** The Illinois League participated in a utilities reform task force in preparation for renewal of the State's Public Utility Act, has lobbied for energy conservation measures and for aid to low-income energy consumers, and has been an annual participant in the Illinois Energy Conference.

Increasing electric rates in 2007 provided the right climate for the Illinois Legislature to pass into law meaningful legislation requiring the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures. Provisions in the new legislation passed in 2007 set forth for Illinois historic standards for electricity created by renewable sources and requirements of energy efficiency programs with the goals of effectively stopping the growth of electricity use in the state as well as saving consumers close to \$2 billion dollars per year by 2020. Continuing the transition to a more sustainable energy economy for Illinois, various green initiatives were incorporated into legislation introduced during the 2008 and 2009 sessions. Legislation including an energy efficiency portfolio standard for natural gas as well as legislation increasing the number of utility companies meeting renewable energy goals were passed in 2009. Legislation was also passed requiring both residential and commercial buildings as well as state buildings to adopt specific energy conservation codes or energy efficient building standards. Specific goals for solar energy in Illinois have been proposed as well as wind generation which is seen as an important source of energy for Illinois, bringing jobs and millions of dollars in rural economic development.

Illinois Smart Grid Initiative (ISGI): The Smart Grid is a complete modernization of the electric system to improve efficiency, reduce outages, integrate alternative energy supplies such as wind energy, and help consumers manage their energy usage and costs. A key component of the Smart Grid is the Smart Meter that will allow consumers to respond immediately to price fluctuations and meet the utilities' emissions reduction goals through energy efficiency.

The Illinois League is a participant in the ISGI collaboration for Smart Grid implementation mandated by state legislation and the Illinois Commerce Commission. The Collaborative is looking at a wide range of implementation issues that will shape Smart Grid deployment in Illinois including consumer and environmental concerns, cost recovery for the utilities, and technology. Meanwhile, the two largest utilities, Com Ed and Ameren, have applied for federal American Recovery and Reinvestment matching funds to help start some Smart Grid work and Advance Metering Infrastructure pilot programs in several Illinois communities.

**Land Use** (see LWWIL Land Use position, pg. 54).

**Water Resources** The Illinois League supported efforts to develop a comprehensive groundwater protection plan for Illinois based on a policy of non-degradation and continues to work for stronger legislation to protect groundwater quality. Over the past decade, the League has participated in the Illinois Wetlands Advisory Committee, the Clean Water Dialogue Group, the Citizens Advisory Group on Waukegan Harbor, the Chicago Shoreline Protection Commission, and Healing Our Waters coalition (HOW).

Local Leagues have sponsored educational forums and successfully waged groundwater protection and water quality campaigns. To recognize the efforts of members of local Leagues on behalf of the environment and especially the efforts promoting conservation and protection of clean water throughout the state, the LWWIL in 1997 received the "Making Waves Award."

Since 2001, when "isolated wetlands" within states lost federal protection, LWWIL has supported efforts that have been made to enact legislation protecting Illinois' wetlands. Since opposition to wetland protection has been great, passage of legislation protecting Illinois' wetlands has not been successful. However, the League and other groups were successful during the Spring 2005 legislative session in defeating a bill that would have weakened existing wetlands up to 0.5 acre without any mitigation for the loss.

Scientists consider the ecosystems of Lake Michigan and the other Great Lakes to be on the edge of collapse. Recognizing the threats to the health of the Great Lakes, League members joined with the with the Lake Michigan League of Women Voters (LMLWV), formerly Lake Michigan Interleague, to educate the public and advocate for full funding and implementation of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. These bills include removing toxic wastes, aquatic and habitat restoration, sewer system upgrades.

Invasive species into U.S. waters are of great concern. The League is monitoring the progress of the electric barrier in the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal which was built to prevent an Asian Carp invasion into Lake Michigan and is following the development of treatment systems to control the introduction and spread of non-indigenous species from ships discharging ballast water.

**Waste Management** Source reduction, waste reduction and recycling measures have been a high priority. LWVIL has supported restrictions on packaging, recycling initiatives, planning mandates, the local review process for siting of landfills or incinerators, stronger state regulation of hazardous waste and low-level radioactive waste, pollution prevention initiatives and funding for cleanup of hazardous waste sites. A League member served on the state Task Force for the Development of Recycled Markets. Many local Leagues have been active in expanding recycling mandates and organizing waste reduction and recycling projects in their communities. Several local Leagues have co-sponsored IEPA household hazardous waste pick-up days.

The LWVIL Solid Waste Legislation Committee researched and wrote two bills on household hazardous waste (HHW) which were introduced into the Illinois General Assembly in April 1991. One bill required counties to plan a separate collection of HHW and the other banned HHW from landfills after 1996. Recognizing that an increasing deficit in state revenues would thwart passage of either bill, the committee worked to amend a bill which required the IEPA to plan to collect HHW from households and to distribute public information on HHW. The bill was signed into law in September of 1992.

In 1995, LWVIL co-sponsored with the IEPA six community outreach workshops throughout the state designed to inform plant managers, environmental managers and public relations managers on ways to conduct meaningful and effective community outreach programs. Members from six local Leagues participated in each of the meetings.

In support of the “reduce, reuse, recycle” components of the waste management hierarchy, as well as maximum protection of public health and the environment, the League lobbied successfully during the 1995-96 legislative session for the repeal of the Retail Rate Law of 1987 which subsidized incinerators.

The League was part of a statewide outreach panel organized in 1995 by the Chemical Industry Council of Illinois (CICI) to address environmental, health and safety issues related to chemical manufacturing in Illinois and to help shape a dialogue between the industry and the public. The panel is part of the Responsible Care Initiative launched in 1988 by the Chemical Manufacturers Association (CMA).

The LWVIL welcomed the creation of a new House Committee – the Environmental Health Committee – during the 2005 legislative session. The League worked successfully with other groups to pass legislation considered by this committee that would ban a class of toxic chemicals commonly used as flame retardants in consumer products in favor of safer alternatives. These chemicals, commonly known as PBDEs (polybrominated diphenyl ethers), are rapidly accumulating in our bodies, homes, and in the fish and sediment of Lake Michigan. The League also supported legislation strengthening Illinois EPA's enforcement authority when dealing with hazardous releases into the soil and groundwater. Protection of public health and the environment as well as promotion of public participation was increased with the successful passage of this legislation.

With increasing evidence of the health effects resulting from the exposure to toxic chemicals in our environment and consumer products, LWVIL monitored legislation eliminating some of the most dangerous chemicals found in certain consumer products. Since children are the most vulnerable to these chemicals, Child-Safe Chemical Acts were introduced during the 2008 and 2009 legislation sessions. Although this legislation failed to receive support, the Chicago City Council voted to ban the use of one of these toxic chemicals, bisphenol A (BPA), in baby bottles and sippy cups effective January 31, 2010. A TFA was issued supporting the phasing out of the toxic flame retardant decaBDE. Legislation phasing out the use of this toxic chemical commonly found in TV's, mattresses, and other consumer products also failed to receive support.

**Nuclear Issues** In 1990-91, the League served as grant administrator for a fund established by the Illinois and Kentucky Compact Commission to enable citizens to participate fully in the public hearing process on the siting of an Illinois low-level radioactive waste facility. In 1996, the League reviewed applications from Illinois nonprofit groups for technical assistance grant funds made available by the Central Midwest Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact Commission. These grants allowed the groups to hire technical advisors for the understanding of the criteria and technical issues as well as presenting testimony to the Illinois Low-Level Radioactive Waste Task Group. The issue is still unresolved, as an Illinois site has not yet been selected. The League, along with coalition partners, spoke at a press conference in 2002 asking U.S. Senators to vote against a national high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain.

**NATURAL RESOURCES:** Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:** Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

## LWVIL NATURAL RESOURCES POSITION: LAND USE

**Support for a state land use policy that addresses the problem of conflicting uses for the land resources of Illinois.**

**Position in Brief:** The League supports development of a comprehensive land use policy for Illinois that provides for orderly growth while preserving the environment, conserving natural resources and providing needed open space. The State should identify, plan for and have the final authority over key and critical areas within the state. Standards and guidelines for land use should be developed by the State with local governments making purely local decisions. At every stage there should be citizen input. The State should plan for adequate supplies of low and moderate income housing with every community providing a percentage under some kind of fair share plan. The League favors regional planning agencies with mandatory and continuous funding from local, regional and state sources. The League supports state enabling legislation for development impact fees.

**LAND USE POLICY** (1972, 1973, 1974, revised in 1975, 1977, 1997, and 1999): The League of Women Voters supports the development of a comprehensive land use policy for Illinois that provides for orderly growth while preserving the environment, conservation of natural resources, preservation of open space and protection of prime agricultural land from lesser uses and intensive development.

The League believes the State should establish the long-range goals of a comprehensive land use policy and that the State should identify, plan for, and have the final authority over all key and critical areas in the state. The State should develop standards and broad guidelines for land use, but local governments should make purely local decisions. The State should assist local governments with professional help and should encourage and facilitate intergovernmental cooperation.

A state agency with adequate staff and funding should be responsible for forming and implementing land use decisions. Opportunities for citizen participation should be available at every stage of land use planning.

Conservation of natural resources must be the established policy of the state, and citizens should be made aware of the role they can play in conservation. Comprehensive land use planning and citizen education are the major thrusts to harmonize growth and the preservation of resources.

The League supports regional planning and continuous mandatory funding for regional planning agencies from local, state and federal resources (see also LWVUS Natural Resources position, pg. 49).

**Low and Moderate Income Housing** The League believes the State should plan for adequate supplies of low and moderate-income housing. Builders of large developments and planned unit developments should be required to provide a percentage of their units for low and moderate income housing. Some kind of fair-share plan should be developed so that every community will have a percentage of low and

moderate income housing, rather than having it concentrated in a few areas of the state. This kind of housing should be attractive and diversified in design and should be subsidized by both state and federal levels.

The League believes an educational program is needed to explain the need for and concept of low and moderate-income housing and that, when necessary, zoning laws should be revised to accommodate such housing.

**Development Impact Fees** LWVIL supports legislation at the state level regarding development impact fees. It is appropriate for such legislation to address fees for capital expenditures for schools, libraries, parks/open space, transportation, utilities and emergency services. Such legislation should be enabling only, and not directive. Only municipalities and counties should have the authority to assess development impact fees, and state guidelines should be adaptable to home rule and non-home rule communities. The test for validity of impact fees in Illinois should be “rational nexus” and not “specifically and uniquely attributable.” Enabling legislation should strive to effect some standardization of impact fee programs statewide, with flexibility for each to be designed to meet local needs.

**Background** The study of land use issues in Illinois began in 1971 and continued through 1974, running concurrently with a national study authorized in 1972. While the broad goals of each consensus are nearly identical, the state positions are more specific and enhance the national position.

Delegates to the 1997 LWVIL Convention adopted by concurrence a position on development impact fees, developed and presented by the League of Women Voters of the Barrington Area. This League undertook a local study of impact fees in 1990. Their study revealed that only enabling legislation for road impact fees existed at the state level. Communities enacting impact fees ordinances for other capital projects were doing so without state legislative guidelines, potentially risking legal challenges. Legislation to set standards for the use of impact fees is viewed as a benefit to local governments as they deal with development and its associated costs.

**LWVIL action** The land use position has been used to:

- Support passage of legislation that protects prime farmland from lesser uses.
- Educate League members and other citizens on the need to preserve farmland from erosion and over-development.
- Participate in a conflict resolution project with farm groups and other environmental organizations.
- Support legislation to identify wetlands needing protection, followed by participation in a state advisory committee to implement the law.
- Support 1991 legislation giving the state some jurisdiction over dwindling wetlands.
- Provide local League testimony in opposition to the destruction of local wetlands, most recently in Lake County.
- Promote intergovernmental cooperation and public involvement in implementing a comprehensive plan for Lake County, providing a balance for orderly growth and transportation needs while protecting the environment, conserving natural resources and preserving natural heritage.
- Support a position by the Naperville League on long-term ecological impacts and public health concerns of the Naperville Park District’s trap-shooting program in an

area containing wetlands and provide comments to regulating authorities on the issuance of a permit for continuance of the trap-shooting program.

- Lobby (1999), at the request of the Cook County League, in opposition to developing land on the west bank of the Des Plaines River in the Chevalier Woods Forest Preserve, which is both forest and flood plain, as a gambling casino.
- Sponsor informational meetings and symposiums related to the economic, social and environmental problems associated with uncontrolled growth or urban sprawl and “smart growth” solutions to these problems, beginning in the late 1990s.
- Establish a task force (1998) to develop a process for local Leagues to follow in addressing transportation issues, including the active inclusion of public participation in local transportation needs and issues.
- Add a “Smart Growth” issue specialist to the LWVIL Issues Committee.
- In 1999, establish a Smart Growth committee to educate and encourage local League participation with their communities on issues related to uncontrolled growth and work on related issues at the state level.
  - ✓ Presented a “smart growth” panel at the LWVIL 2000 Issues Briefing.
  - ✓ Established a working relationship with the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC) to promote the regional planning process and facilitate meetings throughout the Chicago region.
  - ✓ Established a working relationship with the Center for Neighborhood Technology to improve public participation in regional planning in the 6 Chicagoland counties.
  - ✓ In 2001, worked in coalition to pass (unsuccessfully) a series of seven “smart growth” bills.
  - ✓ Testified in support of additional public transportation.
  - ✓ Participated as a public member in the General Assembly’s “Illinois Growth Task Force.”
  - ✓ Monitored and supported legislation that balances the desire for growth of communities with the need to protect farmland, green spaces and air and water quality, as well as promoting transportation options and increased housing availability.
- In 2002 and 2003, the LWVIL partnered with the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission’s comprehensive land use planning process for the 2030 plan and was represented at planning sessions held by Metropolis 2020.
- LWVIL presented testimony at the recertification hearing regarding the Chicago Area Transportation Study’s (CATS) continuation as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the greater Chicagoland area. It also provided testimony for the Illinois Growth Task Force and approved findings of the Committee.
- LWVIL gave testimony before a Senate committee, sent out action alerts and worked with coalition partners for Tollway reform.
- In 2008, LWVIL monitored the budget cuts of the Blagojevich Administration affecting the protection of our open spaces and natural areas and causing the closing of state parks and historic sites. The Illinois legislature’s action and support from Governor Pat Quinn in 2009 restored some funding and reopened the closed state parks. The League will continue to monitor the funding proposals for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and support statewide land acquisition programs that protect Illinois’ natural heritage. A bill diverting revenue from the State and giving that money to private developers, expressly for the purpose of developing the I00 floodplain, passed both the Illinois House and Senate in 2009. The League sent a letter to Governor Pat Quinn urging him to veto the bill. An amendatory veto was issued by the Governor.

## LWVIL NATURAL RESOURCES POSITION: LARGE-SCALE LIVESTOCK FACILITIES

**Support for strict regulation of large-scale livestock facilities on the state, regional and county levels.**

**Position in Brief:** The LWV supports strict regulation of large-scale livestock facilities on the state, regional and county levels to include statewide environmental controls, public hearings prior to siting and regional and/or county control of siting.

**LARGE-SCALE LIVESTOCK FACILITIES (1999):** The League of Women Voters of Illinois supports strict regulations of large-scale livestock facilities on the state, regional and/or county levels to include:

- 1) Appropriate statewide environmental controls:
  - a) implement siting criteria to protect water sensitive areas;
  - b) require that all large-scale livestock facilities management plans be submitted to the appropriate agency and be available to the public;
  - c) require that rates of the most potentially damaging components (e.g., nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, heavy metals) be used as parameters for livestock waste application on crops to minimize land and water pollution;
  - d) require set back distances from bodies of water, wells for human consumption and residences necessary to protect public health;
  - e) require owners to provide bonding, insurance indemnity funds or other financial assurances to ensure that the owners, not the taxpayers, pay for the cost of cleanups from spills or closing of facilities;
  - f) require inspections more frequently than once per year to ensure compliance with environmental standards and practices;
  - g) extend current rules for lagoons to all types of waste handling facilities;
  - h) not distinguish between farm and non-farm residences in setback distances from facilities.
- 2) Public hearing to give notice of the intention to site a facility, determine compliance with state, regional and/or local criteria, and determine compliance with state environmental criteria.
- 3) Regional and/or county control of siting.

**Background** Delegates to the 1999 LWVIL Convention adopted by concurrence a position on large-scale livestock facilities developed and presented by the Jackson County League. Leading up to and following the concurrence, local Leagues held informational and roundtable discussions on the environmental and economic impacts of increased livestock production in Illinois.

**LWVIL action** The League became concerned in 2005 about risks to the set of regulations on Illinois' large-scale livestock facilities negotiated in 1999 and passed by

the General Assembly as part of the Livestock Management Facilities Act. The Illinois Livestock Development Initiative, an outcome of a Livestock Summit convened by the Governor in the Fall of 2005, could streamline environmental controls, change setback requirements, and limit public participation relating to the siting and operations of Illinois' large-scale livestock facilities. The Illinois League will continue to monitor initiatives and legislation impacting Illinois' large-scale livestock facilities.

In 2008 a large scale dairy was proposed to be sited in one of the most pristine areas of the state (just a few miles from the Apple River Canyon State Park).

Environmental groups and local citizens' groups working together opposed this mega-farm which would be the largest such confinement farm operation ever proposed in Illinois. Although the Jo Daviess County Board rejected the proposal, the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDA) approved the permit. Lawsuits were filed against the Illinois Department of Agriculture and the applicant. A preliminary injunction halting the project was issued by Associate Circuit Judge Kevin Ward and the Galena City Council passed a resolution asking for a moratorium on large Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in Jo Daviess County. Controversy over the construction of the large-scale dairy farm continued into 2009. LWVIL and local Leagues will continue to monitor the progress and outcomes of this case and will support legislation promoting sustainable agriculture and protection of our environment as well as human health. It seems likely that more mega-farms will be coming to Illinois. They have been pushed out from other states leaving their damage behind. The best hope, environmental groups believe, is to change state law and return the power of siting to regional and/or local control.

## LWVIL NATURAL RESOURCES POSITION: PESTICIDES

**Support for reduction in pesticide use and the promotion of non-toxic alternatives.**

**Position in Brief:** Support for reduction of exposure to all pesticides. The use of non-toxic alternatives should be encouraged.

**PESTICIDES** (1991): The League of Women Voters of Illinois supports the reduction of exposure to all pesticides and urges the use of non-toxic alternatives. Governmental bodies should encourage a reduction in pesticide use through the promotion of management programs such as integrated pest management, sustainable agriculture and non-toxic control techniques.

**Background** The position was adopted by delegates at the 1991 LWVIL Convention and is based on a 1990 Lake Michigan Inter-League position.

### **LWVIL action**

- The League has supported the adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policies, especially in schools, and opposed the preemption of local governmental pesticide regulations.
- Local Leagues have co-sponsored sustainable agriculture conferences and integrated pest management forums, and worked with school districts in the implementation of IPM policies.
- In 1993, as part of a statewide local League network, several local Leagues joined the efforts of the Illinois Pesticide Education Network and the Safer Pest Control Project and became part of the process of gathering and sharing information on better and safer ways to prevent pest problems in the home and community.
- Beginning in 1996, the LWVIL joined the Yards for Nature Campaign. The focus of the project is to inform the public about the hazards of unnecessary chemical pesticides on lawns and green space and to provide resources to individuals and groups interested in non-chemical alternatives for maintaining a healthy lawn.
- In 1998, the LWVIL participated in a task force convened by the Safer Pest Control Project to identify policies and programs needed in Illinois to protect children from unnecessary exposure to pesticides. In 1999, the League joined A Better Choice Campaign for Healthier Schools formed by the task force. This coalition lobbied successfully in support of legislation amending the Structural Pest Control Act by requiring the adoption of an IPM program in schools and the Illinois Pesticide Act by requiring notification to parents and staff prior to pesticide application inside school buildings and on school grounds.
- In 2002, LWVIL attended the Healthy Schools summit and joined the Illinois Healthy Schools Campaign, a statewide coalition working to heighten awareness with legislators, schools, and parents on the need for environmentally safe schools.
- On January 1, 2008, the Structural Pest Control Act expired after legislation to extend a sunset provision in the Act did not pass. Legislation introduced to provide for the continuation and re-enactment of the Act from January 1, 2008, to December

31, 2009 passed both the Illinois House and Senate. Thanks to League members who helped make the passage of this bill one of the few environmental legislative successes of the Spring 2008 session. Similar legislation introduced in the Illinois House and Senate in 2009 extended the repeal date of the Structural Pest Control Act from December 31, 2009 to January 1, 2019. Although passage of this legislation was not achieved, the League will continue to promote the passage of this important piece of legislation. The League however did appreciate the passage of legislation regulating the application of pesticides in schools and childcare centers and recommending a Pesticide-Free Turf Care program.