

# **JUDICIAL REFORM**

## **LWVIL Issues Briefing February 6, 2010**

### **Michelle Jordan, Issues Specialist**

Over the summer LWVIL received our final grant payment from LWVUS for our work advocating for a Judicial Performance Commission (JPC) in Illinois. LWVIL has continued the fight for Judicial Reform. LWVIL members Dr. Laurie Bergner from the Bloomington Normal League and Michelle Jordan from the Evanston League are still working with the Chicago Council of Lawyers, our coalition partner on the issue. With the generous financial assistance of the Joyce Foundation, the Chicago Council of Lawyers has launched a Judicial Performance Commission Pilot Project. Both Laurie and Michelle have been working with CCL from the very start of the LWVIL project and both continue to work closely with the Council; Michelle sits on the Board of Governors of the Council.

The Pilot Project Commission will assess the qualifications of Cook County judges seeking retention in the November 2010 election, utilizing a commission comprised of lawyer and non-lawyer community leaders and a comprehensive judicial evaluation process that includes both mail surveys and personal interviews.

In April the League also co-sponsored a forum with the Chicago Council of Lawyers entitled: "Is Illinois Ready for a Judicial Performance Commission?"

Featured Speakers were:

Elizabeth Coulson, Illinois State Representative

Kathleen A. Ryg, Illinois State Representative

Jane B. Howell, Executive Director, Colorado Commissions on Judicial Performance

Dr. Laurie Bergner, League of Women Voters of Illinois

Michelle Jordan, League of Women Voters of Illinois

Cynthia Canary, Executive Director, Illinois Campaign for Political Reform

Edward Malone, Chicago Council of Lawyers

David Orr, Cook County Clerk