

Death Penalty Abolition
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The League was among the organizational partners of the Illinois Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (ICADP) participating in summit meetings called by the ICADP beginning in 2009 and continuing throughout 2010 and into January of 2011. The stated goal was to pass an abolition bill either in the 2010 fall veto session or in the 2011 spring session. The League was specifically asked to help contact legislators in targeted districts to build quiet support for abolition throughout 2010. A TFA explaining the strategy was included in packets for the February, 2010 **Issues Briefing**. Afterwards, the TFA was sent to grassroots advocates and Local League presidents. Throughout 2010 and into 2011, local Leagues and League members, informed by phone calls, ENews, and TFA communications have been extensively involved:

- League members were part of visitation teams to targeted legislators;
- League members wrote postcards to their legislators provided by the ICADP which were later delivered by lobbying teams to the various legislators;
- League members called and wrote notes to their legislators, urging abolition;
- Local Leagues helped to organize the ICADP's two speaking tours in October and November which featured death row exonerees and murder victims' family members;
- League members beginning in November lobbied members of the General Assembly to adopt SB 3539, a bill passed in March by the Senate and amended by the House during the Veto Session to become the abolition bill.
- Failing to win passage during the Veto Session, the bill successfully was passed in the Lam Duck Session: on January 6 by the House and on January 11 by the Senate.
- At this writing, League members are urging the Governor to sign SB3539 into law.

I want to express my great appreciation to the local Leagues, the League members, and LWVIL staff members who committed themselves to this effort, which we are hopeful will come to completion with the Governor's signature!