

**Gun Violence Prevention**  
**LWVIL Issues Briefing February 5, 2011**  
**Barbara Marsh, Issues Specialist**

LWVIL continues to be a coalition partner with the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence. As for previous partners, the Joyce Foundation is no longer able to fund the Legal Community Against Violence due to the general economy; the Brady Campaign has not responded to the League's request to again be coalition partners. This request will continue to be pursued.

The November election results certainly do not seem to be positive for gun violence prevention advocates. Prior to the elections, of course, was the US Supreme Court decision in *McDonald v. Chicago* (June, 2010) which struck down Chicago's long-standing handgun ban. This is seen as an extension of the Court's 2008 decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller* which struck down Washington, D.C.'s handgun ban and trigger lock requirement. The new and controversial interpretation of the Second Amendment did not resolve whether it applies to state and local governments.

There was not much activity on gun laws during the spring legislative session in Springfield.

We supported two bills:

- HB 5480 (Osterman). Universal background checks for all handgun transactions. Private sellers would be required to do this to keep buyers who are gang members, mentally ill, domestic violence offenders & felons from obtaining handguns.
- HB5751 (Acevedo). This bill would ban the sale and ownership of dangerous military-style weapons and ammunition to protect law enforcement, children and families.

We opposed one bill:

- HB5231 (Bradley). This bill would allow business owners and their employees to carry concealed firearms where guns should never be allowed (e.g. large public gatherings and businesses where alcohol is sold. Under 5231, law enforcement would have no discretion as to whether these people should be allowed to carry concealed weapons and would have no knowledge of anyone carrying a weapon.

HB 5480 (Osterman) was not voted upon in the spring session because the sponsors felt they were two votes short. It was hoped the vote could be taken at the fall veto session but, again, was not presented because of a shortage of votes.

Rep. Osterman has been a real leader on Gun Violence Prevention but I understand he will no longer be a state representative and will be a Chicago alderman instead. This information is not confirmed. In January, chances for passage of this bill are even bleaker with new legislators, many of whom are quite pro-gun, taking office.

Barbara