

LWV Illinois Remains Vigilant after Dissolution of Pence-Kobach Commission

End of "Election Integrity" artifice positive, but threats remain

The League of Women Voters of Illinois recognizes the end of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, but warns that ongoing threats to voting rights remain, including the Department of Homeland Security taking over the commission's mandate.

"Since 1920, the League of Women Voters of Illinois has worked strenuously to protect and defend the rights of Illinois's citizens to participate fully in elections. We will continue to monitor any potential threats to those rights, whether they emanate from Springfield or from Washington," said Bonnie Cox, President of LWV Illinois.

The commission, chaired by Vice President Mike Pence and controversial Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, was formed in May 2017 and tasked with finding evidence to support the President's claim that millions of wrongful votes were cast in the 2016 election. From its start, the League cautioned that commission members included a troubling number of well-known advocates of voter suppression, including co-chair Kobach. The commission's nationwide request for private voter information was declined by state election officials of both parties, including the Illinois State Board of Elections, and the body was the subject of several lawsuits.

While the commission has been dissolved, the President's declared intent to use the Department of Homeland Security to continue investigating fabricated claims of widespread voter fraud remains cause for concern.

"The League of Women Voters of Illinois will monitor this disturbing development, and we will continue to partner with other good government groups to fight against any attempts to suppress the rights of voters," said Henrietta Saunders, LWVIL Deputy Executive Director.