

LWVIL 2017 Convention Budget Overview

The proposed League of Women Voters of Illinois (LWVIL) budgets for fiscal years 17-18 and 18-19 are presented for your consideration. These budgets will be moved, discussed, and adopted by the delegates to the State Convention 2017.

The League of Women Voters of Illinois Education Fund (LWVILEF) budgets for fiscal years 17-18 and 18-19 are also presented for your information. According to our bylaws, those budgets will be adopted by the LWVILEF Board of Directors at a meeting following the state convention

We are in better financial shape than we were two years ago. In FY 15-16 we budgeted a combined deficit of \$45,800 but actually finished the year with a positive balance of \$26,358. We got more income than anticipated.

Thanks to Mary Schaafsma, Jan Dorner, and Sharon Alter we were awarded a \$50,000 grant from the McCormick foundation for our voter registration work with high school students. We also received funding of \$8,700 from Independent Maps for our petition work.

We project for this fiscal year 16-17 we will have a positive balance of \$19,199 while we had budgeted a negative balance of \$28,400. We saw a significant increase in member and non-member support. Member donations related to State of the State and tributes to Ann Wolf totaled \$10,000. We also received two bequests, \$21,000 from an anonymous donor and \$5,000 from the Emily Levin Gift Fund.

We increased members by 100 by January 31st of this year and have added more since then. Expenses were decreased by moving our office in December of 2016. We cut our monthly rent by 22% and got free rent for 5 months which saved us \$12,000. Like all moves, this required a great deal of work on the part of the staff. We also want to thank Nancy Clark for donating new office furniture.

In summary, we did not have to use the reserves we anticipated so we are going into the next fiscal year in a stronger position which we must work to maintain.

The current climate of political activism has helped us grow our membership. The next two budgets are structured to provide resources to leverage those new members in more active advocacy, develop new leaders, and pursue grants and other development.

On the income side, a major development campaign is being planned and will be implemented in the next two years. We are proposing a \$2 increase in PMP for FY 18-19 to cover the basic cost of living increases. That will bring the LWVIL PMP to \$32. LWVUS PMP will be \$32 for both FY 17-18 and FY18-19.

We plan to pursue grants and investigate the restrictive covenants of the endowment to see if more income and capital could be used.

Increases in expenses are proposed to provide the resources to grow and develop the membership, and time for staff to focus on programming, grant proposals, development planning and implementation. We recommend increasing the travel budget so the Issues Specialists can visit local leagues throughout the state to do advocacy training as well as expanded leadership training throughout the state.