

## **Issues Priorities for the Spring 2017 Legislative Session**

### **1. Fiscal Policy with a special focus on education and human service funding**

Finding adequate and fair revenue sources is the overriding priority in Illinois. Without increased funds, all other League issues are affected adversely. At the same time, equitable funding is a top priority – particularly in a state where the quality of education depends too heavily on the level of local resources.

### **2. Criminal Justice, juvenile justice, and violence prevention**

Major action is expected in these areas during the 2017 legislative session.

The final report of the Governor's Commission on Criminal Justice and Sentencing Reform should be released in 2017. The report is expected to address truth in sentencing laws, the racial impact of sentencing, sentences for drug law violations, sentencing ranges, sentence enhancements, and other issues.

### **3. Environmental protection**

LWVIL continues to monitor the Illinois Clean Jobs Bill. The resulting law will set the framework for developing the Illinois Smart Grid, automated, digital, self-healing electricity distribution framework.

The new administration in Washington has pledged to gut the EPA and overturn the federal Clean Power Plan, as well as review and neuter environmental regulations they consider impediments to business. The onus will be on the individual states and local communities to ensure that we continue to improve our air quality, energy efficiency and slow or reverse our contributions to global warming.

**It is anticipated that the following will also be the subject of TFAs and Legislative Interviews:**

- **Healthcare/reproductive health** with particular attention on Medicaid and ACA issues
- **Campaign finance reform/transparency**
- **Consolidation of units of government**