



**League of Women Voters® of Illinois  
Issues Update for State Board Report - April 2013**

**Graduated Rate Income Tax**

A new trifold brochure describing the effort to amend the Illinois Constitution to allow for a progressive income tax is now available for Leagues to use in your local communities. Find it here [http://www.lwvil.org/GRIT\\_Brochure\\_April5.2013.pdf](http://www.lwvil.org/GRIT_Brochure_April5.2013.pdf)

Two GRIT workshops are scheduled for the LWVIL convention. One will explain what it is and why it's necessary, focusing on practical ways to advocate for a fairer tax. The second will focus on training individuals who are interested in becoming involved as speakers. Our speakers bureau is key to getting the General Assembly to pass legislation allow the voters to decide whether the revenue article of the Illinois Constitution should be amended to allow individual income taxes to be at a graduated or a non-graduated rate. (The current wording only allows for a non-graduated individual income tax rate.)

**Criminal Justice**

The annual **Reunite Moms and Kids Mothers' Day Rally** will kick off at noon, Friday, May 10th at the James Thompson Center, 100 West Randolph Street in Chicago. The rally is organized by the Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers (CLAIM), a not-for-profit agency founded in 1985 to help women prisoners and their children maintain contact. The League of Women Voters has co-sponsored the event in the past and we are proud to continue the tradition in honor of our former issue specialist, Eileen Subak. A flyer to share with your League members is [here](#). For more information on this and other advocacy work on criminal justice, contact Janet Kittlaus at [issues@lwvil.org](mailto:issues@lwvil.org).

**Redistricting Committee to Reconvene**

After several years of work, the CHANGE Illinois coalition has nearly completed work on wording that would amend the state Constitution and change the way redistricting is conducted after each census. The LWVIL Redistricting Committee will soon review and analyze the proposal - in the context of LWVIL and LWVUS positions - and make a recommendation to the board as to whether or not to support it. For further information, contact the committee chairman, Kathy Nesburg at [issues@lwvil.org](mailto:issues@lwvil.org).

**Election Laws**

LWVIL recently expressed concern over HB 0226, an amendment to a shell bill that would allow persons who are 17 years old on the date of the primary election to vote in the primary if s/he will be 18 on the date of the immediately following General Election. This change would apply to elections held in even-numbered years. It does not modify the rules similarly for elections held in odd-numbered years, when some areas hold primaries for local elections.

The League has been a strong advocate for uniformity in Illinois' election laws. We do not believe that this proposal meets that test and opposed it on those grounds. Read our full statement [here](#).

### **Education - Virtual Charter Schools**

LWVIL recently expressed our serious concerns with proposals for virtual charter schools, particularly for elementary-aged students. Read our letter to the Illinois Charter Schools Commission [here](#). The concerns were also presented at several school board meetings where such proposals were being considered.

**HB494** calls for a moratorium on consideration of virtual charter schools. This has merit, because there undoubtedly will be further attempts to create virtual charters. The bill was passed by the House and is now in the Senate Assignments Committee.

### **Campaign Finance Reform**

The Illinois Campaign Finance Reform Task Force is charged with conducting “ a thorough review of the implementation of campaign finance reform legislation in the State of Illinois, and the feasibility of implementing a mechanism of campaign finance regulation that would subsidize political campaigns in exchange for voluntary adherence to specified expenditure limitations”. LWVIL provided testimony for their April 22 hearing. Noting that a large majority of Illinois citizens believe that corruption in Illinois government is widespread, our statement expresses our belief that one of the ways to combat corruption is to maintain campaign contribution limits to candidates and political parties. Read the League's full statement [here](#).