

Member Bulletin



Letter from the President, August 2020

Dear League members and friends of the League,

Last week we observed the 100th anniversary of the ratification of 19th amendment. Last week, for the first time in our history, a woman of color was named as a candidate for vice president on a major party ticket.

Last week we witnessed the dismantling of the US Postal Service, a direct threat to vote by mail and the safety of voters during a pandemic.

Last week the number of those lost to the pandemic rose to 174,000.

Last week.

And this week? Make this a week of renewed dedication to our League mission to ensure all eligible voters are registered and have access to the ballot. USPS “reforms” that will result in postal service disruption are a type of voter suppression. As League members, we are compelled to right this wrong.

Take action now:

- If you plan to vote by mail, apply for your vote by mail ballot as soon as possible.
- Ensure that your family, friends and neighbors, understand that voting by mail is safe and secure.
- Attend our webinar on Wednesday, August 26th - stay current and educate other voters.
- Contact our Senators and your representatives in Congress and tell them to support the USPS.

Our dedication as League members is essential to our democracy and we call on our elected officials to defend the safety and integrity of our election in this time of pandemic. Together our work stands before us.

Beyond this week.

Beyond this election.

Into our second century.

Be well, protect yourselves and others by wearing masks.

[Allyson E. Haut, Ph.D.](#)

President

League of Women Voters of Illinois

Vote By Mail Webinar

Hear from United States Postal Service Officials

Wednesday, August 26th, at 7:00 pm

Explore the newest challenges to voting, brought about by a global pandemic and the current administration's recent reforms to the USPS. What is our role as League members in ensuring safe, equitable access to the ballot? How can we best educate our communities about Vote by Mail safety? USPS officials will answer pressing questions about mail-in ballots, security, and timeliness.

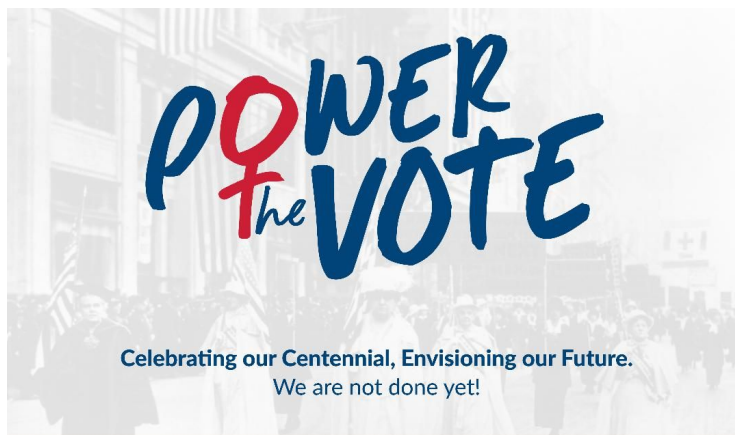
The webinar will cover:

- Overview of Vote by Mail in Illinois
- How to combat Vote by Mail misinformation
- The postal service in Illinois: Can we trust it for safe and secure voting?

This event is free and open to the public. Register [here](#). Questions? Reach out to VoterService@lwvil.org.

Power the Vote

LWVIL's annual fundraiser goes virtual



September 24, 2020

Noon to 1:00 pm

Our online program brings you a unique opportunity to share your passion for the League by inviting friends and family to our annual benefit. This hour of panel discussions and entertainment is designed to commemorate the

women who won the right to vote 100 years ago and inspire us to work for safe, secure and equitable access to the ballot today.

Go to our [Power the Vote event page](#) to:

- Purchase a ticket and make a donation at the highest level you are able (remember, you have no travel expenses for the fundraiser this year!)
- Place an ad in the virtual program book or purchase a virtual table in honor of the woman who taught you the importance of voting. Whose shoulders do you stand on?

Join together with Leaguers from all corners of the state and support your state League!

Ticket holders will be sent a link to the event on the morning of September 24th. The program will be available afterwards for the convenience of those who are unable to attend at noon.

Share on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#), [use this link](#), or text LWVIL to 91999 on your cell phone.

Questions? Contact Benefit Chair Erin Roeper -- eroeper@lwvil.org.



Virtual Forums

As candidate forum season approaches, LWVIL is providing access to its Zoom webinar subscription so that local Leagues may host their congressional, state or county forums on Zoom.

Several leagues are already working together on a combined forum for their shared congressional district. Watch your email for additional information on how to host your forum on Zoom for up to 500 guests; recordings can be posted to YouTube, websites and Facebook. Contact voterservice@lwvil.org to reserve your date and time on our [calendar](#).

Local League Input Needed

Before [Illinois Voter Guide](#) goes live in September, LWVIL is collecting candidate questions from local Leagues. Instructions have been sent to local League voter service contacts for submitting questions for any state, county or local race. Please submit questions by **August 21**; contact VoterService@lwvil.org if that date is an issue, if you need access to the submission link, or if you need help entering questions from your League.

Pollwatchers

If your League is interested in observing Election Day at polls in your area or wants to observe counting/recounting of ballots, your League **MUST** request poll watching credentials by **September 24**. Apply with [your local Election Authority](#).

Election Workers Needed

Election Judges/Polling place technicians are essential for ensuring voter access! Each election authority has specific requirements and duties for judges and technicians, all election authorities need workers. This year, students 16 years of age or older are eligible to be poll workers. Check requirements with [your local election authority](#).

Typical duties include:

- Opening the polling place at 6 a.m. sharp and closing it at 7 p.m.
 - Setting up election equipment
 - Verifying voter qualifications
 - Operating voting equipment
 - Processing and transmitting votes when polls close
 - Certifying vote totals
-

Voter Education

Local Leagues, please use the Vote by Mail Law summaries and social media graphics in the SRC as tools to combat misinformation about the new election law. There is also a voter registration/turnout slideshow with a lesson plan for the classroom available on the SRC, in the LWVIL Toolkit folder.

Support a Fair Tax in Illinois



Our best hope of funding programs that address problems highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic is through a Fair Tax. The Fair Tax would raise taxes on the only segment of society which has seen an increase in income in recent decades – *people earning over \$250,000*. The amendment will be at the top of our ballot November 3.

The League has supported a graduated rate income tax (Fair Tax) for the past 50 years as a path to equitable and adequate funding for programs supporting education, health, and human services.

Make sure your League has signed on to endorse the Fair Tax Campaign. Links to the campaign and other advocacy resources are available [on the LWVIL website](#). In addition, Issues & Advocacy committee members are available to help compose a Letter to the Editor or develop an elevator speech. Please [contact the LWVIL Issues & Advocacy Committee](#) for more information. *Save the date: September 18 webinar featuring Ralph Martire, from the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability.*

Criminal Justice Position Update

The following questions and more are addressed in the section of our study, "Investing in Communities to reduce crime and violence" in the Background Information for the Consensus Questions

- Why do half of all prisoners released from prison return to prison after 3 years?
- What might be done to decrease those numbers?
- What is the connection between poverty and violence?
- How does racism affect the level of violence in a community?
- Who is investing in underserved communities?

Is YOUR Local League getting ready for the January Consensus meetings?

If we can help, contact us at: Issues@lwil.org

Time for Action: Clean Energy Jobs Act

[CEJA \(Clean Energy Jobs Act\) \(SB2132/HB3624\)](#) is part of a bold recovery effort to build a strong, equitable economy and healthier, more resilient communities. CEJA will boost one of the fastest growing industries- clean energy-, by creating new, well-paying jobs and reducing utility bills for families and businesses struggling to make ends meet.

Additionally, CEJA will improve public health by reducing air pollution that have weakened the respiratory health of communities on the frontlines of this pandemic.

Ask your legislator to support CEJA (SB2132/HB3624). Questions? Reach out to the [LWVIL Issues & Advocacy Committee](#) (include CEJA in the subject line).

Suffrage Markers: Catharine Waugh McCulloch

LWVIL's 100th Anniversary Committee has been instrumental in making sure that the [National Votes for Women Trail](#) highlights Illinois' role in the passage of the 19th Amendment. The trail, created by The National Collaborative for Women's History

Sites will culminate in [a nationwide online map of suffrage sites](#). Illinois currently has 48 sites on the map. One marker on the Trail honors Evanstonian [Catharine Waugh McCulloch](#). Please reach out to 100th Anniversary Chair mkubasak@gmail.com with questions.

LWVIL Needs YOU!



Help fulfill the LWVIL mission with your skills and expertise. There are currently several open positions on LWVIL committees and the LWVIL board. This is a great way to get involved with committee work, meet Leaguers (virtually) statewide, and explore your interest in state League leadership. Come share your passion and energy. [Learn more](#) about opportunities to join LWVIL. **Questions?** Reach out to the [LWVIL Board](#).

Important Dates to Remember

- August 26: 100th Anniversary of adoption of 19th Amendment
- [August 26: LWVIL Vote By Mail Webinar with USPS Representatives](#)
- [September 24: Power the Vote Virtual Benefit](#)
- June 11-13, 2021: LWVIL Convention

Please note that this list of important dates is not exhaustive. You can find more events on the [LWVIL Events Calendar](#).



The League of Women Voters Illinois Education Fund (LWVILEF) encourages the informed and active participation in government by providing civic education and voter services. [Make a difference today](#) for you and your community with a tax-deductible gift to support our work to defend democracy and empower voters.

Don't forget to follow, like and share with us on social media!



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