

# Member Bulletin



## A Note From the President, October 2021

A short time ago I wrote about civility in *News You Can Use*. Many of you wrote to tell me it has been very much on your minds as well. Thank you for reaching out. Civility is the space in which we must place ourselves in order to accomplish anything.

As Leaguers, we know that great thoughts and solutions come from both sides of the aisle, and great accomplishments often come from that meeting place in the middle of the bridge between them.

In today's hyper-partisan world, perhaps one of our most important calls to action is not just to model civility, but to ask for it from our communities and our legislators.

*Civility is not a tactic or a sentiment. It is the determined choice of trust over cynicism, of community over chaos. ~ George W. Bush*

*I believe that if we stop talking at one another and start talking with one another, we can get a lot done. ~ Barack Obama*

*A government of, by, and for the people requires that people talk to people, that we can agree to disagree but do so in civility. If we let the politicians and those who report dictate our discourse, then our course will be dictated. ~ Donna Brazile*

Allyson E. Haut, Ph.D.

President

League of Women Voters of Illinois

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### A Conversation With Martha Kinsella Thursday, November 4, 4:00–5:00 pm

Join LWVIL and Martha Kinsella from the [Brennan Center for Justice](#) as we discuss the

current status of pending voter rights legislation (FTVA and VRAA), potential pathways to passage, and next steps for voting rights protections. Registrants may submit questions in advance when registering or in the chat during the event.

This is a special opportunity to hear up to the minute expert analysis. Plan to attend and bring friends!

Registration required. *The event link will be sent a day in advance. Those registering within the 24 hour period prior to the event will receive the event link one hour before the event.*

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## **Protecting Pretrial Citizens' Right to Vote Tuesday, November 2, 10:00 am–noon**

Join this Zoom discussion and learn how to work with your election authority and county sheriff to protect the right of citizens in pre-trial detention to register and vote.

We will hear from Chicago Votes, whose representatives have been registering voters and enabling vote by mail or in-person voting at Cook County jails since 2020. They will present their *Guide to Registering in Jails* and talk about their path to success in Cook County.

Registration required. *Members only. The event link will be sent a day in advance. Those registering within the 24 hour period prior to the event will receive the event link one hour before the event.*

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## **UPDATES FROM ISSUES & ADVOCACY**



### **Redistricting: Illinois Process Lacks Transparency**

LWVIL has long held that redistricting should be vested in an independent special commission and should have processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation. LWVIL is concerned that the current process for drawing state House and Senate district maps, as well as Congressional maps, lacks necessary transparency and leads to partisan gerrymandering.

### **State Maps: Third Time's a Charm?**

The Illinois General Assembly (ILGA) and Governor Pritzker have approved two sets of state redistricting maps, and federal court is now requiring revisions, which means

that in November, Illinois will be on its third, and hopefully final, set of maps.

In June, ILGA approved a set of maps based on estimated Census data, which was necessary in order to meet deadlines set by the state constitution. When accurate Census data, which had been delayed because of Covid restrictions, was released in August, it became obvious that the June maps were inaccurate. New maps were drawn, approved by ILGA, and signed by Governor Pritzker in September.

Both the first and second maps were challenged in court by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) and the Republican Party, claiming a violation of the Equal Protection Clause under the Fourteenth Amendment to the US Constitution (One Person, One Vote). The court invalidated the June maps and ruled that because ILGA had not considered input from MALDEF and the Republican Party when drawing the September maps, these organizations may propose revisions. They have until November 8, 2021 to submit revisions, and ILGA will have until November 18, 2021 to respond. The court will review the proposals and approve the final state redistricting maps or make other recommendations.

## **Congressional Maps**

The Senate and House redistricting committees held hearings and are expected to vote on maps before the close of veto session. Currently there are 13 Democrats and 5 Republicans representing Illinois in Congress. With the loss of one Congressional seat the maps as proposed on October 15 could result in an Illinois delegation of 14 Democrats and 3 Republicans.

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## **Coalition Receives United Nations Award**

LWVIL is a proud member of the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition (ICJC), which received the United Nations Global Goals Award this month for its efforts in support of the United Nations Global Goal #7, Affordable and Clean Energy.

The League is one of 200 ICJC member organizations that spent the past three years advocating for the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA) which evolved into the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act and was signed by Governor Pritzker on September 15, 2021. This comprehensive climate and energy bill moves Illinois to the forefront of national environmental justice efforts.

LWVIL environment specialists worked to amplify ICJC advocacy, with witness slips, Time for Action requests, letters to the editor, and written and oral testimony at CEJA's state hearings. League members' response to these requests provided valuable statewide support.

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## **UPDATES FROM VOTER SERVICE**



## Illinois Voter Guide: Voter Information for All

The [Illinois Voter Guide](#) (IVG), which LWWIL first introduced in 2018, has become THE definitive voter guide for every election in the state. IVG is the ultimate one-stop shop for voters statewide.

Inside IVG, voters find everything they need to vote informed: registration information; mail-in ballot applications; dropbox locations; polling place hours and locations; candidate profiles and data; saved ballot choices; an election day help line, and Spanish translations.

## The Equitable Guide for Leagues, Voters and Candidates!

Everyone in the state can rely on IVG—LWWIL and the vendor take care of it all

- No cost to local Leagues
- No time commitment or data entry required of local Leagues
  - Vendor enters candidate profile content for all races
  - Vendor inputs boundary lines for federal, state and local districts
  - LWWIL uploads local League forum videos to candidate pages
  - LWWIL contacts candidates with questions, including local Leagues' questions
  - Candidate Q&As from local Leagues' website voter guides can be integrated into IVG
- All candidates can contribute to their own profile content
- Statewide coverage—every voter who accesses IVG will find information for their local elections, regardless of where they live

## Power Across the Entire State

In three election seasons, IVG has covered 14,339 candidates in 6,944 races! LWWIL has uploaded hundreds of local League candidate forum or candidate statement videos, and 24 of our local Leagues submitted candidate questions, contributing to a more robust voter guide! The competitive contract that LWWIL negotiated with our vendor runs through six election seasons from 2020–2023.

## Illinois Voter Guide Training

**Thursday, December 9, 7:00-8:00 pm**

Learn about our one-stop voter education tool so you can promote it to our members and communities throughout Illinois! Take a walk through the Illinois Voter Guide and learn more about:

- How to use IVG
- How Leagues and candidates can contribute content to IVG
- How to promote IVG

[Registration required.](#) Members only. *The event link will be sent a day in advance.*

*Those registering within the 24 hour period prior to the event will receive the event link one hour before the event.*

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## Time to start preparing for candidate forums!

We are offering each training twice in November to better fit members' schedules.

### Candidate Forum Training

**Tuesday, November 9, 10:00 am–noon** | [Register](#)

**Saturday, November 13, 10:00 am–noon** | [Register](#)

The League is considered the expert in presenting non-partisan, informative candidate forums with trained LWV moderators. Learn the steps to planning a successful candidate forum, including time at the end of each training for a session on Zoom forum essentials for those who wish to remain.

### Moderator Training

**Monday, November 15, 7:00–9:00 pm** | [Register](#)

**Tuesday, November 16, 10:00 am–noon** | [Register](#)

Well-moderated candidate forums are a League hallmark thanks to well-trained moderators! Constituents and candidates rely on the professionalism and neutrality of our LWV trained moderators. Learn how to facilitate a fair, informative, respectful, and inclusive forum.

Registration required. Members only. *The event link will be sent a day in advance. Those registering within the 24 hour period prior to the event will receive the event link one hour before the event.*

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### Observer Training

**Thursday, January 6, 7:00–8:00 pm**

The League's trained Observer Corps are a respected part of the community— they work to keep local governments accountable and community members informed.

Registration required. Members only. *The event link will be sent a day in advance. Those registering within the 24 hour period prior to the event will receive the event link one hour before the event.*

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## Event Calendar

Connect with local Leagues across the state. Post and find virtual candidate forums and other educational events on the LWVIL website's [event calendar](#).

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Thank you for supporting our work to defend democracy and empower voters.



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