

# Member Bulletin



## December 2021

What a year it was!

The start of the second century of the League of Women Voters began with an attack on our democracy, followed by the peaceful transfer of power to a new president. After an election with unprecedented voter turnout, voter suppression laws were introduced across the country and enacted in 19 states. The pandemic continued, and we held our first virtual convention, welcoming a new Executive Director and Board of Directors for the biennium. Our advocacy centered on fair maps, clean energy jobs, criminal justice, and reproductive healthcare. As the year draws to a close, we are still advocating for the Freedom to Vote Act, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and reforming the filibuster in the US Senate.

What a year it is going to be!

We will begin with a call to action on the anniversary of the January 6 insurrection, when we literally call the White House to advocate for national voting standards. We will educate voters using our Illinois Voter Guide, and look to register voters in low turnout precincts. And, finally, we will march voters to the polls! Our democracy is resilient and so are we!

As Leaguers, we know our cherished democratic principles are based on free, fair and accessible elections. We know that every vote is a voice and every voice must be heard. And this is why our mission has always extended beyond the vote—beyond the ballot box.

No matter how you celebrate the holiday season, remember to find time to pause, breathe, reflect and get ready for 2022.

We wish you all peace,

**Allyson Haut**, President

**Jenny Grochowski**, Treasurer

**Cate Williams**, Secretary

**Rosemary Heilemann**, Vice President, Issues and Advocacy, Co-chair

**Kathy Kenny**, Vice President, Voter Service, Co-chair

**Laurie Rose**, Vice President, Governance

**Roberta Borrino**, Communications

**Sara Kurensky**, Communications, Chair

**Melissa Lieb**, Voter Service, Co-chair

**Jean Pierce**, Issues and Advocacy, Co-chair

**Azisti Dembowski**, Executive Director



## January 6 Day of Remembrance and Action

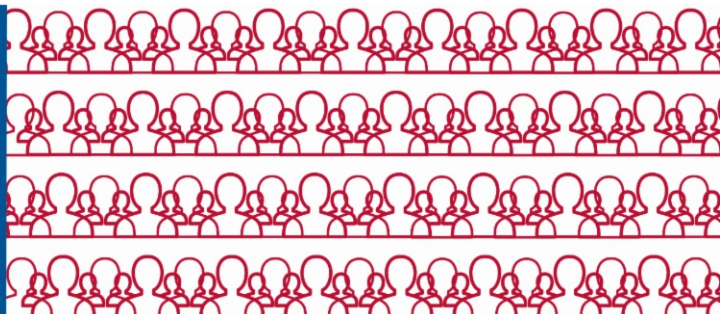
Together with partners nationwide, the League of Women Voters is acknowledging the anniversary of the deadly attack on our Capitol. LWVUS is encouraging Leagues across the nation to use this as a moment to come together with our communities, remember the attack, and commit to taking action to fix our democracy. We must raise our voices and encourage others to do the same to help pass national voting rights protections against the discriminatory voting laws that are rapidly being enacted across our country.

Use the national momentum around this day of remembrance to get your community talking about defending democracy! Forty Illinois Leagues' worth of community engagement and action will help raise awareness. Here are some ideas:

- Use [these LWVIL graphics](#) to post on social media.
- [Print this sign](#) and put it in your window—then ask your neighbors to do the same. ([Or print in black & white.](#))
- Light a candle on your porch or in your window, and ask your neighbors to follow suit.
- Make it a day to register voters.
- Participate in a candlelight remembrance ceremony on Thursday, January 6. [Find one near you.](#)

Make sure everyone understands that our democracy is under attack, and it is up to every one of us to rise to its defense.

**VOTING  
RIGHTS  
FOR THE  
PEOPLE**



## Defend Democracy in January

Make these calls all month.



## Call the White House!

Join the national movement [spearheaded by LWVUS](#), People for the American Way and Declaration for American Democracy. Call the White House and demand that the Biden-Harris Administration get the Senate to FIX or NIX the filibuster and PASS the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

**1-888-724-8746**

**Tuesday through Thursday, 10:00 am–2:00 pm CST**

When you call, you will hear a recording before being connected to the White House line. Need some help with what to say? Use this script from LWVUS:

*Hello, my name is xxx, from Illinois. I believe that our democracy depends on protecting everyone's freedom to vote. It is long past time to increase access to voting, ensure all voices are heard, and root out corruption. I am calling on the Biden-Harris Administration to demand that you champion the voting rights reforms that we all know will make our democracy stronger! The filibuster is getting in the way of our rights. Please use your power to protect our freedom to vote!*

## Call our Senators!

They need to know how many of us support changes to the filibuster so that voting rights legislation can pass!

**Senator Durbin: 202-224-2152**

**Senator Duckworth: 202-224-2854**

*Hello, my name is xxx, and I am an Illinois constituent. If the Senate can waive the filibuster in order to raise the debt ceiling, it MUST waive the filibuster to protect our voting rights! Please support fixing or nixing the filibuster in order to pass the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. Please support fixing or nixing the filibuster in order to pass the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.*

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## January 17: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Take action to urge the passage of voting rights legislation in honor of Martin Luther King Junior.

Write a letter to the editor of your local paper as an individual.

Sample wording:

*As a concerned citizen, I encourage my friends and neighbors to contact Senator Durbin and Senator Duckworth at 1.888.453.3211 to thank them for their support of national voting rights legislation and to urge them to push for changing the Senate's filibuster rules so they can pass the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.*

*Voting rights are at the heart of our democracy. Our country stands or falls on the right of every voice, in every state, to be heard at the ballot box.*

*The Freedom to Vote Act will remove barriers to voting, tackle dark money's influence in our elections, and combat discriminatory gerrymandering. The John Lewis Voting*

*Rights Advancement Act will protect against the discriminatory voting laws that are rapidly being enacted across our country.*

*Together, these two bills represent the best defense of our democracy and American values. Together, they put power where it belongs—in the hands of American voters.*

*Voting rights legislation has been blocked in the Senate for months. It can only be passed by changing the filibuster rule. Senators Durbin and Duckworth must defend our democracy by pushing for filibuster change.*

*A strong democracy depends on free, fair, and accessible elections. Please join me in action today—call our senators!*

**Follow [LWVUS on OutreachCircle](#) to stay up to date on upcoming actions and activities!**



## Getting Ready for Election Season

### Important Voter Service Resources

- [VoterService@lwwil.org](mailto:VoterService@lwwil.org) | LWVIL Voter Service Co-chairs, Kathy Kenny and Melissa Lieb
- [IllinoisVoterGuide.org](#) | With statewide candidate and ballot information, the Illinois Voter Guide is every voter's best source of nonpartisan information—all in one place! Make sure voters know about the guide. Help voters use the guide to make a plan to vote
- [VoterServiceGroup@lwwil.org](mailto:VoterServiceGroup@lwwil.org) | LWVIL Voter Service Google Group discussion
- [Voter Service Local League/LWVIL Shared Resource Center](#) | Voter Service toolkits, graphics for social media and the Illinois Voter Guide, General Primary Election Calendar
- [LWVIL Website - Member Resources](#) | Voter Registration, Candidate Forums, Observer Program
- [LWVIL Zoom Webinar Calendar](#) | Reserve your League's time and use the LWVIL Zoom webinar software for your virtual forums

### Deputy Registrars

- [LWVIL Deputy Registrar Policy](#)
- [State Board of Elections Deputy Registrar Guidelines](#)
- Does your League have enough deputy registrars certified with your election authority?
- Is your current League address and phone on file with the State Board of Elections?



## Illinois Voter Guide Information Session

**Tuesday, January 11, 10:00–11:00 am**

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 (IVG) and learn more about:

- How IVG increases equity for voters, candidates, and local Leagues
- How to use and promote IVG
- How Leagues and candidates can contribute content to IVG

[Registration required.](#) Members only. Registration closes 24 hours prior to the event. *The event link will be sent a day in advance and again an hour prior to the event.*

## 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. Registration closes 24 hours prior to the event. *The event link will be sent a day in advance and again an hour prior to the event.*

## Moderator Training

**Thursday, January 27, 10:00–11:00 am**

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

[Registration required.](#) Members only. Registration closes 24 hours prior to the event. *The event link will be sent a day in advance and again an hour prior to the event.*

## Future Voter Service Sessions

Please email [voterservice@lwvil.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvil.org) to be put on an interest list for future Illinois Voter Guide sessions and candidate forum, moderator, and observer trainings.

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## *Save the Dates!*

## LWVIL Issues Briefing | Raise Your Voice!

**March 5–11, 2022**

Join on zoom and get briefed. Hear from legislators and nonprofit leaders about issues and legislation anticipated to be front and center in 2022. Begin with Saturday morning plenaries, and continue with a variety of workshops throughout the week. Save the dates now to get the nonpartisan information you need to be an empowered advocate in 2022.

**Please Note:** The Illinois General Assembly is scheduled to adjourn on April 8, 2022. Due to this shortened session, LWVIL will not hold Lobby Day for Spring 2022. Information about advocacy for specific bills will be shared during Issues Briefing in March.

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



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