

Member Bulletin

A Note From the President, May 2022

I cannot forget the words spoken by Zeneta Everhart, whose 21 year-old son was shot while doing his job, loading groceries into the car of a woman who died in front of him, killed by a bullet from the same gun.

“The first thing we have to do is talk about it and stop acting like there is not racism in this country”

Words have power.

Last weekend was, in plain words, murder by a racist terrorist.

Murder. Racism. White supremacist terrorism.

It is important that we use these words.

It is important that we talk about the racism in our homes, our communities, our country.

What is racism to you? Where do you see it in your community? Is it there? How does it affect your daily life?

As Leaguers, we must persistently, adamantly, demand that our leaders take significant action. They must do more to ensure anti racism education in our schools, curb the amplification of white supremacy on social media and protect Americans against the threat of gun violence.

There is a lot of work to do. To see racism, to see white supremacy, to take away the power, to dismantle, to undo, to rebuild and repair.

What will you do? What can the LWVIL do?

Please let me know what you are thinking,



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



Team GOTV: Five Weeks for Action!

Who is Team Get Out the Vote? We are - all 3500 of us! For the next five weeks, every Leaguer in Illinois has one priority - to **encourage, motivate and activate** people in our communities to become VOTERS.

The first step is to remind people that there is a primary election on June 28 - many voters are still unaware that **there is an election taking place!**

Help voters find the information they need

The online [Illinois Voter Guide](#) is a statewide, one-stop-shop for voting logistics (where and how to register, polling place locations, what the ballot looks like) AND nonpartisan candidate information.

- Candidate information will be available in the [Illinois Voter Guide](#) on May 25.
- [Candidate forum recordings](#) are posted on the LWVIL website shortly after each forum and can also be accessed from the [Illinois Voter Guide](#).

Share the Illinois Voter Guide widely

Use the graphics in the [GOTV toolbox](#), on the LWVIL website (For Members>League Resources>scroll down to Voter Service).

- Be prepared! Print out the Illinois Voter Guide QR code and carry it with you.
- Print out the Illinois Voter Guide voter information card and post it in public locations: library information boards, coffee shops, laundromats - be creative.
- Activate your social media and email networks - share LWVIL's social media posts or use the graphics in the [GOTV toolbox](#) on the LWVIL website to create your own
- Expand your reach! Ask other organizations to share the [Illinois Voter Guide](#) with their networks. Send them to the [Illinois Voter Guide page on the LWVIL website](#) for the QR code graphics.

Help make sure people actually VOTE

When voter turnout hovers around 35% in your community, that means that six or seven out of every 10 eligible voters are NOT voting. Six or seven of your friends and neighbors are being silent about things that matter.

- Be a "voting buddy" - make a date to go to the polls or drop off your mail in ballots with another voter, or two (or three!).
- Hold people you know accountable. Call them and ask when they plan to vote. Early? By mail? On election day? Call them again to make sure they have voted.

Voters are the heartbeat of a healthy democracy. Be persistent. Be relentless. Democracy depends on all of us to be Team GOTV.



Vote By Mail Application

Remind voters that the first step to voting by mail/drop box is to apply for a vote by mail ballot from their election authorities. It's easy to do from the [Illinois Voter Guide](#)—just click the button to be sent to the correct place on the State Board of Elections website.



LWVUS Convention: Proposed Program Items of Interest

Among the many items that delegates to the LWVUS convention will vote on in June is the [proposed program for the 2022-24 biennium](#). The LWVIL Issues & Advocacy committee is asking Illinois delegates to pay special attention to the LWVUS recommended concurrence with the [LWV of California's Criminal Justice position](#).

In addition, among the nearly 80 not-recommended/other items that were elevated by numerous local Leagues, there are two that the LWVIL Issues & Advocacy committee expects to be moved for consideration during convention: the abolition of the electoral college, elevated by 27 Leagues (including LWVIL), and immigration reform, elevated by 39 leagues.

Questions about all three of these specific program items should be addressed to issues@lwwil.org.

Illinois local League convention delegates will have the opportunity for a zoom information meeting prior to convention. Delegates will be notified shortly after convention delegate registration closes on June 6.



Get Involved in Your Community: Early Childhood Action Councils

The state of Illinois is creating 39 regional Early Childhood Action Councils throughout the state. These 15-member councils are a great opportunity for local League members to be involved in community action aligned with League positions.

The purpose of these councils is:

- To support local residents in coming together to address early childhood needs within their own communities
- To make sure the state's policies and funding priorities match the needs of each region, prioritizing voices of families, providers, and communities
- To provide equitable access to high-quality early childhood services for all children

[Learn more and volunteer.](#)

Observer Training Thursday, June 9, 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.

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

Event Calendar

Check out the [event calendar](#) on the LWVIL website and connect with other local Leagues. Go to the event calendar for information on how to submit your League's educational events for posting.

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



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