

## NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM

### SARA KURENSKY (LWV OF WILMETTE) COMMUNICATIONS

A communications professional, organizer, writer, and artist, Sara is a Phi Beta Kappa Journalism graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has worked for the American Dietetic Association, the Chicago Board Options Exchange, and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs in various editorial and brand development capacities. Living overseas with her husband for many years in countries such as India, Yugoslavia and China solidified her belief that all people are motivated by the need for safety, love, respect and community - and everyone craves beauty, laughter and joy. She is committed to using her time and expertise to seeing these needs met equitably. To this end, she designed and implemented a long-term arts education program for her public school district, mentored immigrant families with Refugee One, and has been part of organizing Women's March Chicago since its inception, serving on the board since 2018. She joined the LWVIL communications committee to help with strategy, design, and content development. Her greatest accomplishment is being the mother of three adult children who are on their own path to making the world better. Her favorite question is "What keeps you busy?"

### WHY I WANT TO SERVE ON THE LWVIL BOARD

I am eager to contribute to the work that the current board has begun in building a comprehensive strategy to grow our reach and diversity throughout the state. I see this unfolding in two broad areas - membership, so that we foster a League membership that looks more like the communities where we live; and public education and activation, so that all communities have equitable access to the knowledge they need to affect change. As a communicator, I bring a unique skillset to the table that will help us craft our strategy from the beginning, so that we continually reinforce and strengthen our League narrative. This strategy must include content and adaptable design elements, as our narrative will inevitably need to grow with the world around us. In addition to marketing, event planning and project management, much of my work has been in organizational outreach and coalition building. I look forward to bringing this experience to the work LWVIL is doing to connect with other state and local organizations working in education, activation and advocacy. It would be an honor to be part of building the foundation for a second century of growth.

### MY GOALS FOR THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM

After nearly a year working on LWVIL's communications committee, I have some specific goals for expanding, updating, and unifying our state voice. My overarching goal is to provide what local Leagues need so that we can leverage our joint power. We have such a fantastic opportunity because we span the state! I want to use my background and experience with coalition building, message amplification, and grassroots organization, in combination with local League input, to help promote continued expansion of our education and advocacy work. Specific goals to facilitate this include; designing a portfolio of communications tools to include messages, graphics and social media templates we can all use to strengthen our voice statewide; developing and maintaining regular relationships in key media outlets throughout the state to increase our visibility; and continued professional updating and reformatting of LWVIL's online public materials to solidify our position as a nonpartisan information resource for educators and activists. We must continue to improve access to information and civic education so people are empowered to advocate for social justice and civil rights reforms.