

## LWVIL LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

The first stated goal of the League of Women Voters of Illinois (LWVIL) is to influence public policy. To that end, we lobby our state elected officials and governmental agencies in support of our positions as stated in Where We Stand.

The Illinois Lobby Registration Act requires that we register as a lobbying organization and that we comply with the following mandates:

1. Report all expenditures made on behalf of the League for any Illinois elected officials or agency employees.
2. Report all communications made on behalf of the League to any Illinois elected official or agency.
3. File reports immediately.

ANY League members who lobby on behalf of the League need to notify the LWVIL of the following activities within (2) days of lobbying:

- Any expenditure made on behalf of the person you are lobbying for the League. (Example: a cup of coffee, meal, tickets to an event, etc.)
- Any time you communicate with any elected official on behalf of the League to influence any executive, legislative, or administrative action other than responding to a LWVIL Time for Action (TFA). We know when we send out TFAs, our members will be communicating with elected officials. You need to report additional activity, so we can keep track of all League lobbying.

The reporting form can be found at (website) [www.lwvil.org](http://www.lwvil.org). Failure to report expenses on time can result in fines for the League.

Comments and Recommendations:

The bill defines lobby and lobbying as “any communication with an official of the executive or legislative branch of State government for the ultimate purpose of influencing any executive, legislative, or administrative action.”

Our recommendation is that you do not pay for anything while lobbying a state government official. It is preferable that if you meet with an official at a restaurant you pay only for your own meal, coffee, etc. If you do treat the person you are lobbying, it must be reported using the LWVIL form provided.

These rules apply to local Leagues as well as to individuals when lobbying on behalf of League ONLY. As individual citizens, members may speak with state officials about issues or a proposed bill with no reporting requirement.

Leagues are not prohibited or discouraged from inviting state officials to local meetings to educate and inform members or the public about an issue or proposed legislation, there is no reporting requirement for this type of activity.

Questions or concerns can be addressed to: [president@lwvil.org](mailto:president@lwvil.org) or [issues@lwvil.org](mailto:issues@lwvil.org)