

Leaders Update

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It's Not Too Late

You have until **Friday, September 9th** to buy tickets and submit an ad from your local league as we celebrate the **2016 State of the State event**.

**Democracy Goes
Back to School:
celebrating civics
education in Illinois**

A reminder:

We are offering **discounted advertising space** in our **8½ x 11"** Program Book to local leagues:

- \$ 600 for a full page (8.5 x 11")
- \$ 300 for a half-page (8.5 x 5.5")
- \$ 175 for a quarter-page (5.5 x 4.25")
- \$ 85 for an eighth-page (2.5 x 4.25")

Consider, for example, placing an ad acknowledging your 50 year members, or recognizing outstanding past presidents or a local League member who has made a special contribution to your community, to the League, to the State of Illinois. Why not place an ad that celebrates your league and its members. Consider including a photo.

The State of the State luncheon is one of the primary fund-raising activities supporting the Illinois League's Education Fund.

2016 ticket prices. League member = \$110.00. Guest = \$130.00, LWVIL Friend: \$300. We hope you will be able to support us as we continue to maintain our important presence in the public arena in Illinois. For tickets by mail, please use this [reply device](#). Click here to purchase tickets [online](#).

Contact Executive Director, Mary Schaafsma, at marys@lwwil.org for more information.

Voter Service

Is Your League Planning a Candidate Forum in Anticipation of the General Election?

If so, let us know when and where candidate forums are taking place. Please use the [event submission form](#) found on our website when you click the big blue [Calendar](#) button on the home page. We will be happy to advertise it on the LWVIL website. Remember take pictures and send them on to Roberta Borrino, rhborrino@lwwil.org and Susan Kern, skern@lwwil.org.

Also, the League of Women Voters of Illinois requires every candidate who participates in a debate sponsored or co-sponsored by LWVIL to sign a **participation agreement**. One paragraph of that agreement reads: "**No voice, image or other duplication of the debate may be used by any candidate's representative or campaign in any campaign advertising.**" If your league plans to videotape your debate or forum, please consider including this statement in your participation agreement.

A Reminder about Empty Chair Debates

State and local leagues may not hold a scheduled debate when only one candidate for an office accepts or appears for an event. The LWVIL policy can be found [here](#). If you have specific questions or need further clarification, please contact LWVIL Voter Service at VoterService@lwwil.org.

Some words of advice about candidate debates and forums from LWVUS

Recent focus groups confirm that the public does NOT look favorably on candidates that try to duck debates. The public also trusts the League of Women Voter's reputation for providing unbiased information to voters. If candidates refuse to participate in your activities, it's important for the League to speak up. Try these points:

- When candidates refuse to participate in opportunities to help their future constituents learn more about them, this is a **loss for voters**.
- The League of Women Voters has a long history of conducting candidate forums, but this isn't about the League: it's about voters. We want to provide a platform for voters to learn about who will be on their ballot.

That's why we are particularly concerned about candidates who refuse to (show up and debate OR participate in voters' guides

- Candidates running for public office are applying for a job. Debates are like job interviews, and the voters are hiring. Who would hire an employee without interviewing them first?
- When a candidate decides to not (attend OR participate), it is a lost opportunity for all voters. Declining an opportunity to discuss the issues that matter most to voters is contrary to the public interest.
- Research conducted on voter behavior and participation shows that not only does the public expect candidates to participate in voter education activities, but it also found that voters are more likely to vote when they know who the candidates are and where they stand on the issues. So when candidates choose not to participate, it's the voters that are harmed.

Also, take this opportunity to remind the community of all of the valuable voter service work you do.

From the Independent Map Team

On Thursday morning, the Independent Map coalition filed a petition asking the Illinois Supreme Court to reconsider its recent ruling denying voters the ability to vote this November on the proposed constitutional amendment to require a transparent, impartial and fair process of drawing legislative maps.



LWVIL President, Mary Kubasak, and LWVIL Redistricting Issues Specialist, Paula Lawson joined colleagues at the August 31st press conference announcing the petition to reconsider.

By a 4 to 3 partly line division, the Supreme Court ruled that the Independent Map

Amendment is not in line with the Illinois Constitution's requirement for amendments proposed by voters. Under the Supreme Court's rules, Independent Maps has the right to point out arguments the majority of the court overlooked or misinterpreted and to ask it to reconsider.

"We believe the four justices in the majority were wrong and inconsistent in their reasoning and would reach a different conclusion if they consider, as they have in all other similar cases, the legislative debates from the 1969-70 constitutional convention," said Dennis FitzSimons, Chair of Independent Maps.

"More than 563,000 Illinois voters signed Independent Map Amendment petitions, and we owe it to them and thousands of volunteers across the state to make every possible effort to convince the Court that the amendment deserves to be placed before voters in November."

Thank You

To all of you who have returned your updated Officer and Board information to Roberta Borrino, thank you very much. We appreciate the information since it is helpful in making sure we connect with the right people in your League.