Affordable housing for families and individuals is an around the Country issue. Accompanying services easily accessed are of great importance to the stability of the children, youth employment, parental employment and generally healthy living. Housing, whether Public Housing or private housing, is much needed around the Country and in Illinois. Cities and other communities struggle with how to meet the housing for all. Senior citizens living on fixed incomes which are often very low is a growing issue everywhere. League members are encouraged to follow several advocacy agencies such as Housing Action Illinois, United for Homes Campaign and Low Income Housing Coalition in order to stay current with both State and Federal legislation throughout the year. The public housing issue is a major issue, given the varied limits on Sect. 8 vouchers as well as Project based vouchers. At least one Illinois community sponsors housing assistance very low income senior citizens in that town which is supported by the town's taxes.

One State initiative is to amend Illinois Human Rights Act to include protections against discrimination based on legal source of income. In addition must work is on the table re Foreclosure Prevention Program Graduated Fund Fee. Yet another issue is how to mitigate the negative impact of evictions. We must advocate as a League for legislation to increase access to affordable housing for extremely low income populations including people with criminal records. We will be following the IHDA Tenant Selection Policies for People with Criminal Records. Federal legislation currently being considered are HR 482 re local zoning decisions of the Protection Act of 2017.

Finally, as reported by the Responsible Budget Coalition following the Governor's Budget address, "the lack of a fully funded budget is causing immense damage to our state's economic future." " Over 1 million Illinoisans have lost services like meals for homebound seniors, treatment for individuals struggling with mental health issues and home visits for at-risk young mothers."

"Illinois needs a fully funded state budget with adequate revenue so Illinois families and communities can thrive."