

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Thanks to all of you who responded to recent Times for Action on this issue. Here are updates on two of those bills:

After a vigorous 2-hour debate, the House adjourned without voting on SB 1342 (formerly HB2265), the mandatory minimums and truth-in-sentencing bill. It appears the bill will be reintroduced in December during a special session, if called, of the Illinois General Assembly. The League opposes HB 1432.

HB2378, the misdemeanor sealing bill, did not move during the veto session. It is expected to come back in the Spring session. The League supports HB2378.

GRADUATED RATE INCOME TAX

SJRCA 40 now has 25 sponsors and HJRCA 33 has 37. We are more than 50% of the way toward reaching our goal of getting enough legislative support to put the referendum amending the Revenue Article of the Illinois Constitution on the November 2014 ballot.

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER: If your League hasn't enjoyed a GRIT presentation yet, LWVIL's graduated rate income tax project team has available several presenters willing to work with you to schedule a presentation and help with the follow up. League members are also encouraged to go to www.abetterillinois.org to sign on to the petition for a fairer tax. For more information, please contact the GRIT Project at issues@lwwil.org.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

As you know, the Illinois legislature passed a Concealed Carry Weapons law. Since that law was passed, the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence (ICHV) (a coalition of which LWVIL is an active member) has been developing a guide to educate residents about the concealed carry law and its effects on communities throughout the state. ICHV estimates the guide will be available before the end of the year. LWVIL hopes to make the guides available to local Leagues.

Additionally, the ICHV is working with our faith-community partners on a proposal advanced by Senator Dan Kotowski (Park Ridge) to prohibit concealed weapons in places of worship. The legislation is currently Amendment #5 to SB 1002 and may be introduced as a stand-alone bill in the Spring session. ICHV is building up support on this issue and if you are interested, ICHV can provide a sign up letter to enlist faith institutions in the effort.

HEALTHCARE

The healthcare.gov site has had a rocky start. In Illinois, potential enrollees can go to getcoveredillinois.gov and answer a few questions about available coverage but may be directed to the Federal website for further Marketplace information. GetCoveredIllinois also provides information about enrolling in Medicaid. In Illinois, HB3227, which would create a state-run Marketplace, did not come up in the veto session.

REDISTRICTING

Yes for Independent Maps website for petitions: independentmaps.org.

TERM LIMITS

There is a campaign, led by Republican Gubernatorial candidate Bruce Rauner, to gather signatures for a citizens' initiative to impose term limits on Senators and Representatives in the General Assembly. LWVIL **opposes term limits**. See *Where We Stand*, pages 27 and 28, for the League's position and the reasons supporting the position. www.lwvil.org/where-we-stand.html.

League members cannot pass petitions and gather signatures as representatives of the League and local Leagues cannot hold programs in support of term limits. But of course, League members are welcome to act as individuals.

FRACKING

The "Hydraulic Fracturing Regulatory Act" (SB1715) is being converted to Rules by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and is expected to be sent to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) soon.

Although Illinois is being praised for having the nation's strongest regulatory bill on fracking – it is actually the only state that has a regulatory bill on fracking. Serious concerns have been expressed about the adequacy of the bill, including set-back of drilling sites; management of radioactive debris; and allowing drilling in seismic zones. The IDNR Rules may or may not address these expressed concerns.

A 45-day public comment period will begin when the Rules are published in the Illinois Register. At least 3 public hearings are expected to be scheduled – Chicago, Central, and Southern IL.

Once the rules have been released, you may be asked to contact members of JCAR about the rules regulating fracking.