



## Leaders Update

12/15/2015

Most of us are busy with holiday preparation and plans but the LWVIL Board wanted to make sure that one last Leaders Update of 2015 be e-mailed to all of you.

Please read it carefully or you might miss important information:

1. Update on LWVUS database
2. Independent Map incentive
3. News from Issues and Voter Service regarding March 15, 2016 primary and spring 2016 legislative interviews. *Look forward to more information about legislative interviews in upcoming Leaders Updates.*
4. Advice from the LWVIL Communications Committee.

And, finally, please remember that the **2016 ISSUES BRIEFING** will take place on Saturday, **February 27th** from **10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at the University Center, 525 South State Street, Chicago. Please note that timing change. Registration forms will be available shortly.

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## LWVUS Database Progress

**Great news!** Rollout of the new LWVUS database has gone so smoothly, our group's start date has been **moved ahead** by a week!

On Monday, **December 21** your roster manager will receive detailed instructions via email. Many of the instructional materials are available in advance if your League would like a head-start, by visiting the [League Management Site](#).

Monday, **January 4** is the deadline requested by LWVUS for reviewing the training materials and completing the survey questions. This has to be done before a new password will be assigned to your League.

At that point it's time to update your databases at long last! The new database feels a lot like the old one, but with more intuitive, enhanced features. LWVIL

requests this updating process be completed no later than **January 15**.

LWVIL gets our database information from LWVUS, so until your info is current on the LWVUS system, the state League will still be running on our manually updated list. You may continue to forward your new member names and emails to [rborrino@lwvil.org](mailto:rborrino@lwvil.org) to get them on the Enews and Time for Action mailing lists.

Thank you all for your patience while the LWVUS Database was under construction.

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## Redistricting Activities

**THREE MONTHS AND COUNTING:** Please encourage your members to **continue collecting signatures on the Independent Map Amendment petition**. There are about three months left during which time signatures can be gathered before the final deadline.

Members of local leagues throughout Illinois have been instrumental in collecting signatures, and as we near the deadline, we need your members to continue doing so.

To inspire signature collection during the next few months, the League of Women Voters of Illinois is **offering a financial incentive** to those leagues or groups of leagues who collect the most signatures **between now (December 15th) and March 10, 2016:**

- The league or groups of leagues who collect the most signatures during that period will receive **\$750** to support their operating fund. The next highest will receive **\$500**, the third highest **\$300** and the next (fourth) highest will receive **\$200**.
- In order to qualify, signatures must be returned to Mary Schaafsma, League of Women Voters of Illinois, 332 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 525, Chicago, Illinois 60604. You are encouraged to send petitions in as you gather them rather than waiting until the end. Petitions postmarked after March 10th are welcome but will not be eligible for the incentive.
- The holidays provide an **excellent opportunity** to gather signatures from family, friends and neighbors.

Questions? Contact Mary at 312.939.5935 x-33 or [marys@lwvil.org](mailto:marys@lwvil.org).

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## Issues and Voter Services

The March 2016 primary is only three months away and LWVIL wants to make sure it supports local Leagues as they consider legislative forums and

interviews:

**From Jean Pierce and Hilary Denk, Co-Chairs, LWVIL Issues Committee:**

We strongly recommended that **local Leagues collaborate** as much as possible when planning **legislative interviews**, and if possible even on a **candidate forum**.

To facilitate this, the Issues Committee is providing the following files to help identify Leagues which "share" legislators. In each case, the first column lists the district number. The second lists the legislator. The third column lists the League which has the largest number of constituents in the legislator's district. The number next to the League's name is the total number of constituents for that League. Each subsequent column lists other Leagues with members living in the district. (Leagues were not listed if they had only one or two members in a district.) We are aware that some legislators are not on these lists. We have intentionally included only those legislators who have League members in their districts.

Three of the files are organized based on **an alphabetical listing by the current legislator**:

- [State House of Representatives](#)
- [State Senate](#)
- [U.S. Congress](#)

The three other are organized based on **an alphabetical listing by the League name** which has the largest constituency:

- [State House of Representatives](#)
- [State Senate](#)
- [U.S. Congress](#)

Lastly, we are including a link [HERE](#) to the Illinois State Board of Elections website of **all candidates who have filed to run** in the March 15, 2016 primary election. Check the list regularly since names may be removed after hearings on objections.

**And from Irene Pritzker and Sharon Alter, LWVIL Voter Service co-chairs:**

As the March 15, 2016 primary nears, we know some local leagues are already planning candidate forums. The LWVIL office has an **updated list of moderators** who are willing to moderate these forums.

Please let us know about your forums: What legislative offices were covered? About how many people attended? Did any problems arise?

If any questions come up in the planning process, feel free to contact us at [voterservice@lwvil.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvil.org). We are always willing to brainstorm solutions with you.

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## From the Communications Committee

**Calendar your Events on the lwvil.org web site.** Boost your League's visibility by posting your meetings, voter registration drives, candidate forums and other events on the **LWVIL calendar** and follow through posting to your Facebook page or send to [info@lwvil.org](mailto:info@lwvil.org) to post on the State League's **Facebook** page. Remember, search engine rankings go up by including **photos** -- become that member who always catches the right action shot!

**Media Connections:** Your media contacts are critical to enhancing the effectiveness of getting the word on your LWV advocacy out to the public. Please renew existing print, TV, and radio connections and reach out to cultivate new ones. Your LWVIL Communications Committee has launched an effort to kindle a relationship with 20 of the most promising media outlets across the State in partnership with the local leagues.

Co-Chairs, Michelle Peterson [mpeterson@lwvil.org](mailto:mpeterson@lwvil.org) and Susan Kern [skern@lwvil.org](mailto:skern@lwvil.org) will be reaching out to your League's leadership (publicity/communication chair) to spearhead this effort over the next 2 months.

**Tell us what we need to do better.** Amazing social media and Internet technologies are emerging daily. Which should the LWVIL test out? We need your recommendations!

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*Holiday Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year!*

*From the LWVIL BOARD & STAFF*

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