

Leaders Update

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2017 Convention

Over the next several months you and your members will be e-mailed information regarding the June 10th and 11th 2017 Convention. Among those items and information will be: Program planning, Bylaws, 2017-2019 League of Women Voters of Illinois budget, workshop materials (workshops scheduled for Friday, June 9th), registration and lodging



All this information will be available on the LWVIL website shortly. Please share this information with your members.

Program Planning

It is time to start the program planning process, culminating in the adoption of program items at the 2017 LWVIL Convention. With input from local Leagues, LWVIL will have a viable and action-oriented program to move our public policy influence forward in Illinois.

The enclosed packet includes:

- [State Program Planning Instructions](#)
- [The Program Planning Process](#)
- [The State Program Planning Calendar](#)
- [Status of LWVIL Issues and Advocacy December 2016 - A summary of recent action taken in Illinois](#)
- [Program Planning Response Form for 2017-2019](#) - Due by March 10, 2017.

General Assembly Veto Session Update

The Good, the Bad and Still No Budget

During the Veto Session, the General Assembly passed and the governor signed into law the **Future Energy Jobs Bill**, [SB 2814](#). This new law combined two pieces of legislation, one of which, the Clean Jobs Bill, LWVIL strongly supported. This compromise bill contains many of the policies from that bill, and added the rate increases Exelon requested to support two nuclear energy plants. The Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition has been working on this legislation for many years. Its passage will lead to the creation of thousands of jobs throughout our state in a growing clean energy sector as well as positive actions to combat the threat of climate change. It will modernize our energy policy and renew Illinois' ability to be at the forefront of renewable energy creation in the country.

Some of the clean energy provisions in this bill include:

- Incentivizing utility companies to achieve more energy efficiency savings for customers.
- Requiring \$25 million per year to be spent on programs to help low-income homes become more efficient.
- Fixing the renewable portfolio standards (RPS) that will lead to 3,000 Megawatts of solar development and 1,300 Megawatts of wind development. Half of the solar projects will come from panels on homes and businesses. That's enough solar and wind to power almost 1 million homes.
- Creating the state's first community solar program which allows those not able to build solar on their roof to subscribe to a shared project in their community.
- Investing in low-income programs, which include solar development and job training in economically disadvantaged communities.
- Encouraging between \$12 to \$15 billion in private investment to come to Illinois to create new jobs.

LWVIL strongly supported the override of the Governor's veto of [SB 250](#), the **Automatic Voter Registration** bill, which was originally passed out of the General Assembly with overwhelming bipartisan support. The governor vetoed it and the override failed. The bill would have ensured that potentially 2 million eligible voters who are not currently registered to vote, would be automatically registered. The veto override vote was along party lines and some members were not present for the vote.

Two other LWV supported bills failed to survive the Governor's veto:

- [HB 4351](#), the Community Care Protection/Determination of Need Score bill would have prevented severe cuts to community based home services for over 40,000 senior citizens.
- [HB 5931](#) would have increased wages for Direct Support Providers, who provide services to people with disabilities, to \$15 per hour. Many make less than \$10 per hour for doing challenging work, which makes it incredibly difficult to recruit and retain quality providers to help people with developmental disabilities live integrated independent lives in community settings.

In addition, no budget was introduced and the stop gap budget was not extended. LWVIL Executive Director Mary Schaafsma and LWV MAL Unit in Springfield members attended the press conference hosted by the Responsible Budget Coalition to highlight the serious damage the lack of a budget is causing our state. Click [HERE](#) for stories from service providers and share with all you know, including your local legislators. Thank you and we wish you wonderful and warm holiday season!

Watershed Protection Program

On January 11, 2017, the League of Women Voters of Jo Daviess County and the Rotary Club of Galena are hosting a day-long conference entitled "Water, We're All the in the Same Boat: Jump into Watershed Protection." National and Illinois speakers will discuss water quality issues and propose some solutions leading to action. Clean water is critical for all of us!



For more information and to register, visit www.galenaroundtable.com.

Roster Updates

Please remind your roster managers to update your league's member info on the LWVUS database -- especially when advised of a member's new email address. We take the information directly from LWVUS to create the distribution list for our regular communications.

Forwarding this Email

If you forward this Constant Contact email -- and we hope you do share all or part with your Local Leagues -- you need to use the "forward this email" link wa-a-a-y at the bottom of the email. If you just forward through your regular email, anybody you forward it to could hit the unsubscribe link. They do not unsubscribe themselves in that case, but you who did the forwarding.