

Member Bulletin

March 2023

Fifty-one years ago, on March 22, the US Congress approved the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution. The ERA was then sent to the states for ratification to ensure that all genders have the same rights and protections under the laws of our nation. Yet today, 51 years later, not only do we not have equality but we continue to witness women's rights being stripped away. We need the #ERANow!

Here in Illinois, State Representative Jennifer Gong-Gershowtiz introduced a resolution affirming that the ERA has satisfied all constitutional requirements and is fully ratified. [House Joint Resolution 20 \(HJR20\)](#) calls on Congress to affirm the ratification of the ERA.

Across the country, 12 state legislatures are considering similar resolutions and other legislation to protect gender equality. [Watch Wednesday's press conference](#) held by the ERA Coalition and a group of state legislators to uplift the work going on right now to protect gender equality.

Profound thanks to these women for their strength and their continued insistence that all of us must be equal under the law.

What can you do to ensure equality? Commemorate this Women's History Month with a simple action. Voice your demand for equality. **Please.**

Send an email or make a call to your [state representative](#) and ask them to co-sponsor Illinois [HJR20](#). We have the power of 3613 League members contacting their legislator—let's use it!

Do it right now, help make the change that is so long overdue.



[Allyson E. Haut, Ph.D.](#)

President
League of Women Voters of Illinois

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LOBBY DAY 4.24.2023

Join LWVIL Lobby Day 2023!

LWVIL Lobby Day 2023 is virtual so that **every local League member can participate**, amplifying our statewide power to affect change. There are 3,613 League members in Illinois. April 24 is our day to show Illinois the strength and breadth of our grassroots reach.

What is a Lobby Day anyway?

Lobby Days are a common way for organizations, or groups of organizations, to visit legislators and demonstrate interest in having them take action on an issue or a specific piece of legislation. Historically, LWVIL met in Springfield for Lobby Days when the Illinois General Assembly (ILGA) was in session.

How will LWVIL virtual Lobby Day work?

On Lobby Day, every local League member in the state should plan to spend at least a few minutes taking action:

- Call your legislators
- Email your legislators
- Educate your community
- Email your networks about contacting their legislators
- Post on social media (repost LWVIL's facebook, instagram and twitter posts!)

In addition, some Leagues might choose to set up a visit with their legislators, in their local office or on Zoom, on April 24. (Call and make an appointment now!)

Watch for your Lobby Day materials

In a few weeks, LWVIL will send every member a Lobby Day toolkit including fact sheets on bills, social media graphics, email templates, and ideas for action.

What bills will be targeted for Lobby Day?

LWVIL is currently watching more than a dozen bills that align with our positions. At the end of March, bills that have passed in the ILGA chamber in which they were

proposed will “cross over” to the other chamber. Bills that have crossed over have a good chance of passing into law if legislators hear from their constituents. It is those bills that will become the heart of LWVIL’s virtual Lobby Day.

How will you harness your League's grassroots power on April 24 to affect change in Illinois?



JUNE 10-11
CONVENTION 2023

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF ILLINOIS

LWVIL will connect, converse, and convene to conduct the business that will take our organization into the next biennium—all on Zoom. Accessible and inclusive for League members across the state, we go into the future with the joined power of every local League.

All League members are encouraged to consider representing their local League at Convention 2023 by becoming a delegate. The number of delegates each local League may send to Convention is prescribed by our Bylaws and can be found in the Delegate Counts document on the Convention page of the LWVIL website.

[The Convention page on the LWVIL website](#) is where all members will find the materials that will be used to conduct the business of convention.

VOTE

IllinoisVoterGuide.org

Consolidated elections are in high gear as early voting starts statewide

What is it about local elections?

From voters to candidates, local elections are about the people we share streets, schools, libraries, stores and parks with. We are more likely to know, meet or speak with our local officials than we are with the US president or Illinois governor.

Local elections, arguably, have the greatest impact on the daily lives of our communities. These are the elections where people can have the greatest impact on how their communities are governed.

Our belief in the power of the ballot is why we are League members. But most of us live in an echo chamber where everyone we talk to knows that local elections are taking place and why they are important. It is time to move outside of our echo chamber.

It is up to each and every League member to talk to friends and neighbors about THIS ELECTION. Share your passion for democracy by helping people truly understand the power and excitement of voting—because every voice, every vote, can make a difference. Especially in local elections.

We are all part of Team GOTV

Make it personal



Activate for our future

Research shows that registered voters who were urged to vote through a personal appeal (direct mail or in-person canvassing) were significantly more likely to vote than those who were not contacted.

The same research shows that 30–50% of those who vote due to get out the vote efforts in one election will go on to vote in future elections.

When you activate a new voter this election, you are likely activating a voter for life.

As members of one of the country's trusted nonpartisan civic organizations, with a mission to educate and activate voters, every League member in Illinois is perfectly positioned to have an impact on voter turnout.

LWVIL has tools to help you drive voter turnout

Many people don't vote because they don't have the information they need. Be a source of information—start by sharing the [Illinois Voter Guide](#), LWVIL's one-stop-shop for every zip code in Illinois!



Illinois Voter Guide

Voters can use [IllinoisVoterGuide.org](#) for

- Registration information
- New voting districts
- Where and when to vote (early, by mail, election day)
- Candidate stances
- Candidate forum recordings

During Consolidated Elections, [IllinoisVoterGuide.org](#) covers the following races for towns with populations greater than 10,000: Mayor/President, Clerk, Treasurer, City Council/Alderpersons. [Illinois Voter Guide](#) also covers **all school board elections in the state.**

Use the graphics below (just click on them to download) and others found in the [GOTV Toolbox](#). The Toolbox and other resources are available 24/7 on the [For Members>League Resources](#) page. Use LWVIL voting graphics on your local League

website, and personal social media, and in emails to your networks. Remember to like and share LWVIL social media posts!



Check out the [Illinois Voter Guide Materials](#) page at lwvil.org for the Illinois Voter Guide QR code graphic and the convenient IllinoisVoterGuide.org business cards below. Carry them with you, hand them out at train stations and coffee shops, and share the images on social media.

 **VOTE**
IllinoisVoterGuide.org

Know your candidates.
Use your voice.
Vote your values.



100% nonpartisan election information for every zipcode in the state.
Powered by the League of Women Voters of Illinois, activated by you!

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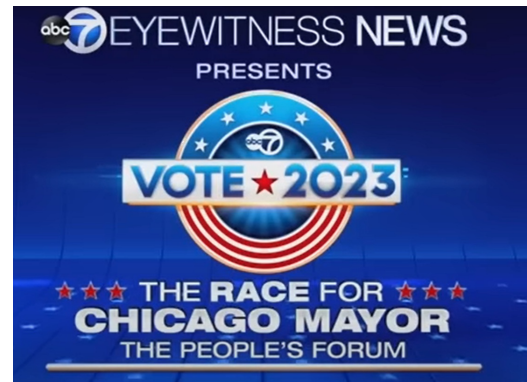
Candidate Forum Recordings

Candidate forums, whether held on Zoom or in person, are often recorded and accessible to any voter with internet access or a phone. Recordings, when available, are posted in the [Illinois Voter Guide](#) and on the [LWVIL website](#).

Chicago Mayoral Runoff Forum

Mayoral runoff candidates Brandon Johnson and Paul Vallas faced each other in the ABC 7 studios in front of a live audience on March 16, in a debate using LWVIL guidelines.

Continuing a decades-long relationship, LWVIL and LWV Chicago partnered with ABC7 and Univision for the 2023 Chicago mayoral election and runoff debates. The League collaborates with ABC7 in crafting candidate invitations, establishing ground rules, creating candidate questions, and assisting in the studio with timing. [Watch the forum](#).



The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or party. Period.

The League is a highly respected resource for nonpartisan information, which can be hard to find during our hyper-partisan times! During election season, it is crucial that you and your League are staunch guardians of our nonpartisanship.

103rd Illinois General Assembly in session



Legislative Interviews

Volunteer to be part of the legislative interview team for your League, and talk to your legislators about their priorities for a variety of League-identified issues. Relationship-building is crucial for advocacy, and Legislative Interviews are a great way to build relationships with your legislators. Read through the Legislative Interview materials on the [League Resources](#) page of the LWVIL website. Legislative Interviews are all the more important this year, as many Leagues have new legislators due to redistricting.



Election Legislation

Among the thousands of bills introduced during the 103rd General Assembly's first session, many were related to voting rights protections. Many of those have been returned to committee and are expected to appear in an omnibus election bill at the end of the spring session. Among those being considered are a number that LWVIL supports:

HB3749 Ranked Choice Voting in municipalities allows municipal elections to be conducted by ranked choice voting where there is the administrative ability to do so.

HB2446 Pre-registration for 16 year olds allows 16 year olds to pre-register to vote and be automatically registered when they become eligible to vote. Illinois law provides that 17 year olds can vote in a primary election providing they will be 18 at the time of the corresponding general election.

HB1496 Ban on Prison Gerrymandering would maintain a citizen's voter registration in the district of the last known street address prior to incarceration, rather than in the district where the prison is located.

HB39 Voting in Prison would allow citizens who are incarcerated to vote.



Environmental Legislation

A [major report released this week](#) by the United Nations focuses squarely on the global dangers of climate change and the sweeping changes needed to protect life on earth as we know it. A persistent focus on climate change mediation and international cooperation and accountability, along with grassroots activation for environmental protection, is crucial across the globe.

As one of the world's largest consumers of energy, the United States places an outside burden on the global climate relative to our population size. We must reduce our national carbon footprint.

The passage of the [Clean Energy Jobs Act \(CEJA\)](#) last year positioned Illinois as a national leader in this effort. LWVIL is watching legislation currently before the 103rd Illinois General Assembly that focuses on environmental protections.

Plastics

SB100/HB2376 Polystyrene Reduction creates a path for eliminating polystyrene (foam) containers from the restaurant industry with reasonable expectations set for low-income businesses. HB2376 passed in the House and has crossed over to the Senate.

HB1616 Chemical Recycling/Pyrolysis: Early this week, LWVIL and LWV Chicago joined 50 other organizations in a letter to ILGA members stating our **opposition to HB1616**. Among other things, this bill will promote the use of “technologies that create new public health and environmental justice problems.” [Read the full text of the letter.](#)

Carbon Capture

For background on carbon capture, please watch this session from LWVIL Issues Briefing 2023: [Carbon Capture and Sequestration: What is it and why should we be concerned?](#)

HB3119/SB2421 Carbon Capture and Storage offers protections for residents and landowners and eliminates eminent domain for CO2 pipelines and forced amalgamation of pore space in sequestration areas. This bill also includes funding for emergency response (and equipment) and public participation.

SB1916/HB3803 Safety Moratorium on Carbon Dioxide Pipelines places a moratorium on CO2 pipelines in Illinois for two years, or until Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) completes its rule-making process (whichever comes first).

Watch bills move through the General Assembly

Remember to follow the progress of many of the bills LWVIL is watching with the bill

tracker on the [LWVIL website, Issues & Advocacy > Action Alerts](#). This handy app automatically shows the current status of bills as they progress through ILGA. It may take a moment for this function to load on your computer (refresh your screen) before you can scroll through the list of bills and track their status.

LWVIL Observer Training a success

Forty Illinois League members attended Observer Training this month, bringing the total number of Observers trained in the last four years to more than 400! The League's Observer Corps is based on our belief that civic education leads to civic engagement, and civic engagement is the foundation of democracy.

With the continued demise of local newspapers, the League's nonpartisan observation and public education about the ongoing activities of local government has taken on an even greater significance. Communities that can no longer rely on local reporters for information about their local government can often rely on their local League.

Does your League have an active Observer Corps? LWVIL training is required to be an Observer, and trainings are held multiple times a year. Contact voterservice@lwvil.org for information about future training opportunities.

Zoom helps us take our work to all corners of Illinois. **Expand your audience** and elevate our mission to empower voters and defend democracy.

Share your League's education events on the LWVIL website calendar. Submit events on the LWVIL website [News & Events>Event Calendar](#) page.

**LWVIL
Needs
YOU!**



Are you ready to help build LWVIL as the best resource possible for local Leagues and communities around the state?

Or, explore opportunities to serve during the 2023-25 biennium. Complete the [brief application](#) or contact [Jan Dorner](#) with questions.

We are particularly interested in experience in any one of the following areas: Development and Fundraising; Communications; Community Outreach and Education; Human Resources; Finance or Accounting.

Thank you for supporting our work to defend democracy and empower voters.



Support the League Today!

[View as Webpage](#)