



# Member Bulletin

## September 2023

For decades now, LWVIL has had an old safe in our offices—a very heavy cast iron safe tucked away in a corner of the conference room. Painted red and decorated with gold flourishes and lettering, it is from the Illinois Equal Suffrage Association, which evolved into the League of Women Voters of Illinois. The safe is a beautiful antique, but it is locked tight, and no one knows what, if anything, is inside. The safe could be empty, or it could hold a long-lost surprise.

After a search, we have found a safecracker who will open it for us, and Jan Flapan, past LWVIL president and honorary event chair, will be on hand to open the door to reveal the contents at our fundraiser kickoff. We will celebrate whether the safe is empty or full of surprises.

Why are we having a fundraiser now? Because now, more than ever, is the time to defend democracy, and defending democracy requires resources. LWVIL needs funds for printing and postage, for fighting misinformation and disinformation, and for advertising our voter guide and candidate forums. Help LWVIL defend democracy —[donate today](#).

[Becky Simon](#)

President

League of Women Voters of Illinois

## In This Issue

Crack the Safe Fundraising Kickoff  
Why We're Fighting School Vouchers  
Lobby Day: Veto Session 2023  
Member Trainings & Meetings



# CRACK THE SAFE

## Campaign to Safeguard Democracy

### Crack the Safe! Fundraising Kickoff

**Friday, September 29, 4:00–6:00 pm**

**LWVIL Offices, 332 S Michigan Ave, Suite 634, Chicago, IL**

Join us next week for the official opening of the early 1900s safe that belonged to the Illinois Equal Suffrage Association (IESA), the predecessor of LWVIL. This historic safe has been locked for over 40 years, and its contents are a mystery. What is in the safe? We will find out together at the kick-off reception for our Campaign to Safeguard Democracy.

LWVIL has hired a professional safecracker to open the safe during the kick-off reception. The reception includes refreshments, and a donation of \$40 is requested. [Please register to attend the reception in person.](#) Capacity is limited.

The event will also be livestreamed on [LWVIL's Facebook page](#). No registration is necessary to view the livestream.

The IESA was founded in 1869 and evolved to become LWVIL in 1920. IESA and notable Illinois suffragists, including Ida B. Wells, Ellen Annette Martin, Grace Wilbur Trout, and Catherine McCulloch, spent 51 years writing petitions, holding protests and parades, and lobbying government and elected officials. Their work led Illinois to become the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote.



### Why We're Fighting School Vouchers

**Tuesday, September 26, 6:00–7:00 pm**

The Invest in Kids school voucher program diverts up to \$75 million from public education and sends public dollars to unaccountable, untransparent private schools, while over 80% of our public schools in Illinois are underfunded.

This program must end. Join us to hear from LWWIL experts as we gear up to fight any attempt at extending IIK during the fall veto session.

This webinar is open to the public. Invite your friends and neighbors to learn more about this vital issue for our public schools.

[Please register to attend.](#) You will receive the event link via email upon completing your registration.

## Action Alert

Tell your state senator and state representative to vote NO on any legislation that revives or funds the Invest in Kids school voucher program. **Take action.**

[Check out more resources for local Leagues to spread the word.](#)



# LOBBY DAY

## LWWIL Lobby Day: Tuesday, October 24

We're headed to Springfield! League of Women Voters members are invited to join us for [Lobby Day](#) during the 2023 Veto Session.

We'll be advocating for multiple League priority issues, including lobbying against the renewal of the Invest in Kids school voucher program. More information on our agenda to come soon.

**You can make a difference!** During Lobby Day, you'll meet with your legislators and advocate for the issues you care about. Never lobbied in Springfield before? No worries, we will provide assistance and can partner you with a more experienced advocate.

**We will meet at the Illinois State Visitor Center on Tuesday, October 24 at 10:00 am.**  
[Sign up to join us.](#)



## Member Trainings & Meetings

The following events are open only to League members.

### Mis- and Disinformation Task Force Planning Meeting

Monday, October 2  
7:00 pm

[Register to attend.](#)

The proliferation of mis/disinformation has emerged as a significant threat to our democratic processes and informed decision-making of the electorate.

Join our effort to educate the general public on mis/disinformation! Attend the LWVIL Mis/Disinformation Task Force's first virtual planning meeting.

Contact [communications@lwwil.org](mailto:communications@lwwil.org) with questions.

### Preference, Tradition, or Requirement Training

Thursday, October 5  
12:30 and 5:30 pm

[Register for 12:30 pm.](#)  
[Register for 5:30 pm.](#)

"But we've always done it that way!" Use the Preference, Tradition or Requirement (PTR) evaluation tool to focus on what really matters and how to best accomplish your goals.

This is the second in a series of Leadership Development Trainings hosted by LWVIL, with presenters from the LWVUS Organizing Team.

### Observer Corps Training

Saturday, October 21  
10:00 am

[Register to attend.](#)

The League's trained Observer Corps are a respected part of the community—they work to keep local governments accountable and community members informed.

For this training session, we are pleased to also invite non-member high school students to attend as a step in becoming engaged with local government and the League.

Additional training dates can be arranged for groups of ten or more. Contact [LWVIL Voter Service](#) to discuss.



ARCH + BOW FILMS PRESENTS  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH GENUINE ARTICLE PICTURES AND TIME TRAVEL PRODUCTIONS  
"NO TIME TO FAIL" DOCUMENTARY FILM BY SARA ARCHAMBAULT & MARGO GUERNSEY  
EDITOR LYNN TRUE ORIGINAL MUSIC PETER SCARTABELLO  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MAIDA LYNN  
DIRECTED & PRODUCED BY SARA ARCHAMBAULT & MARGO GUERNSEY

## Documentary Screening

LWVIL is pleased to offer local Leagues the chance to view a documentary chronicling the work of Rhode Island election officials during the 2020 general election. "No Time to Fail" gives a behind-the-scenes look at the work that went into holding an election amidst a pandemic and highlights election workers' importance to our democracy.

If your League was not able to sign up for a viewing, but you have members who would like to see the documentary, please contact [voterservice@lwwil.org](mailto:voterservice@lwwil.org), and we'll connect you with a League that is showing it.



## Local League Events

Find more events (and share your local League's events!) on the [LWVIL website event calendar](#).

*Members power the League! Thank you for your time and donations.*



**Support the League today**

[View as Webpage](#)

League of Women Voters of Illinois | 332 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 634, Chicago, IL 60604

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