

Member Bulletin

January 2024

On January 1, 2024, Illinois SB2123 went into effect, allowing eligible 16 and 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote. Eighteen states and Washington, D.C. already permit voter pre-registration beginning at age 16. In Illinois, eligible teens may now pre-register, but will not receive a ballot until they reach voting age.

A big round of applause goes to LWVIL Issues & Advocacy Director Tina Brady Pettis, who took the initiative to coordinate and produce 2024's kickoff voter pre-registration event at Simeon Career Academy. On January 17, this event was able to register and pre-register more than 250 voters!

Tina is the founder of the [GOTV 4 TEENS coalition](#), which includes the League of Women Voters of Illinois, Coalition of African American Leaders, CHANGE Illinois, Chicago Votes, Girls Of Grace Youth Center, National Pan-Hellenic Council Of Chicago, Neighbors Who Vote, Never 99, Promote The Vote Illinois, Simeon Alumni Association, Target Area, The Leaguers, Voices Of West Englewood, and local chapters of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, National Council of Black Women, National Council of Negro Women, and Top Teens of America.



LWVIL Issues & Advocacy Director Tina Brady Pettis



Michael Meeks of Omega Psi Phi, Iota Chapter, preregistering a voter

Back on the road, I made a quick trip down the I-88 to visit the League of Women Voters of the La Grange Area in west suburban Cook County.

LWV La Grange Area covers Brookfield, Burr Ridge, Countryside, Indian Head Park, Hinsdale, Hodgkins, La Grange, La Grange Highlands, La Grange Park, Riverside, Western Springs, and Westchester.

The evening event featured a presentation about the SAFE-T Act from Cook County Public Defender Sharone Mitchell Jr., who spoke to a full room! Although the SAFE-T Act has only been fully implemented for a few months, Mitchell was able to share some preliminary highlights of how this legislation has impacted Cook County to date.



Pictured left to right, Jan Goldberg, LWV LaGrange Area; Sharone R. Mitchell Jr., Cook County Public Defender; and Michele Niccolai, LWV LaGrange Area President

[Becky Simon](#)

President

League of Women Voters of Illinois



Join us for Issues Briefing on February 24

This will be a hybrid event, so you can watch from the comfort of your own home or you can be in the room where it happens! Issues Briefing is a great opportunity for you to connect with and network with other local Leagues and local League members. Convenient location next to I-88, plenty of free parking, and box lunches are available to order.

Each issue session will conclude with updates about upcoming legislation and direct action you can take. Here's what's on our agenda:

Government Transparency and Accountability

How do we prevent corruption in government? Let's explore why enshrining government transparency and accountability into law are solutions that matter.

New Migrants and Budget Policy

Learn how Illinois can rise to the challenge of meeting the basic needs of a growing low-income population while also ensuring the safety and well-being of new arrivals by leveraging fiscal policy.

Misinformation, Disinformation, and Freedom of Speech

While the constitution guarantees a right to free speech as a core tenet of democracy, mis- and disinformation pose an increasing threat to it. Navigating a balance between the two is critical to maintaining open elections and preserving democratic processes.

Gun Violence Prevention

Explore gun violence through the lens of domestic violence and the social and economic circumstances that often lead to it. Speakers will discuss two perspectives on reducing gun violence by addressing known risks.

Issues Briefing is open to everyone—invite friends and colleagues to learn, engage, and activate!

Learn more and register today.



Local League Events

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



Support Humane Treatment of Immigrants

During the past many months, we have witnessed our municipal governments react to the challenge of increasing numbers of buses or planes arriving in our communities with immigrants. While some communities have approached the situation through a lens of compassion, others have implemented restrictions on the transportation and housing critical to their journey, and others have attempted to restrict state and federal funding necessary to alleviate what has become a humanitarian crisis.

Whatever the reaction in your community, LWVIL is assembling a set of resources to assist you with responses your local League can use to speak up and advocate for humane treatment of new arrivals.

What has been done so far?

LWVIL President Becky Simon [published a letter to the editor of the *Chicago Tribune*](#) to stand for humane treatment of immigrants and to call for a coordinated effort across the state to address the issue.

The LWVIL Issues and Advocacy Committee created [Talking Points for Leagues](#) to help you draft and discuss the issue locally.

And finally, the League of Women Voters of McLean County, armed with [talking points](#), spoke against a resolution proposed by a member of the McLean County Board to ban the use of county tax dollars and refuse to accept federal funds if needed to support migrants. The resolution was rejected 13-7. Congratulations and thank you to Diana Hauman, president, and to the McLean County League! After the meeting, Diana shared the following, "It was good to see our community come together as we did to try and protect the rights of others. Over 40 people spoke at public comment."

Immigration Advocacy Resource Kit

Copies of the above resources are available for your use. Over the coming days, LWVIL's Immigration Issue Specialist Kim Reed will be adding references and other materials to further assist and inform you. Please check this [Immigration Advocacy Resource Kit](#) regularly for materials. For questions or additional information please contact issues@lwvil.org or immigration@lwvil.org.



Upcoming Trainings

The #1 request we have been hearing from local Leagues is for more training! The following series of trainings is open to all League members.

Zoom 101: Meetings

Thursday, January 25, 12:30 pm or 5:30 pm

Zoom is not just for tech wizards! Learn more about how to host a Zoom meeting.

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

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

Zoom 201: Webinars

Thursday, February 8, 12:30 pm or 5:30 pm

In part two of our Zoom training series, learn more about how to host a Zoom webinar.

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

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

Partnerships Training

Thursday, February 22, 12:30
pm or 5:30 pm

In this training, we will help your League to identify, develop and deepen partnerships with other pro-democracy and voting rights groups and groups that intersect with the League's priorities, including strategies for building and working in an effective coalition.

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

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

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



Election Day is March 19

Coming up in Illinois is the [Primary Election](#) on Tuesday, March 19! Use IllinoisVoterGuide.org to register to vote, check on your registration status, sign up to vote by mail, or apply to be a poll worker. Spread the word with this [handy calendar](#) in your League newsletters or on social media.

As of January 1, sixteen and younger seventeen year olds may pre-register to vote, with their registrations held in abeyance until they reach voting age.

For League purposes when holding registration drives, the only difference in registering these teens versus other voters is that the pre-registrants can only register **online** or **at the DMV**. Otherwise, the requirements remain the same: direct them to ova.elections.il.gov, where they'll be asked for their driver's license or state ID number, and the last four digits of their SSN.

For older teens who will be eighteen by election day on November 5, 2024, they can register in all the usual ways—online, in-person at the election authority or DMV, paper form or mail-in registration. They can also vote in the March 19 Primary Election.

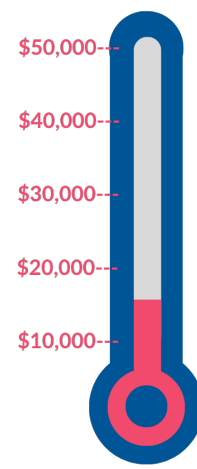
Support Our Get Out the Vote Efforts in 2024!

The goal of LWVIL's [Campaign to Safeguard Democracy](#) is to raise \$50,000 for our GOTV efforts, statewide online voter

guide, candidate forums, and campaigns to fight misinformation and disinformation.

We're 30% of the way there! Thank you to the generous donors who have given over \$15,000 so far. [See participation by League.](#)

DONATE TODAY



Submit Your League's Photos

We love to see the smiling faces of League members! Help LWVIL elevate and share the hard work of our members by [submitting photos of your local League's activities.](#)

All photo submissions will be added to our photo library. They may be used in LWVIL marketing and communications materials, including possible placement on the LWVIL website and social media platforms.

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



Support the League today

[View as Webpage](#)

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