

# Member Bulletin



## A Note From the President, April 2021

A verdict. And sighs of relief around the country. Accountability came with the verdict in the Chauvin trial, and this is the first step toward a new beginning.

Now we begin the work to change the assumptions, methods, functions, rules and laws of our communities.

Accountability gives us the foundation for reform. As Leaguers, we know this. Holding our leaders accountable has always been our contribution. It's emblazoned on our website: Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Our relationships with our legislators are powerful. Every time we interact with them—when we file a witness slip, call their office, send an email, sit as a member of Observer Corps, attend Lobby Day, moderate a forum, or vote—we expect them to hear us. We are holding them accountable.

It is our legislators' responsibility to listen and act on what they hear. It is our responsibility to speak out for what our communities need.

We need reform. Be accountable. Speak out.

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

President

League of Women Voters of Illinois



**LWVIL Virtual Lobby Day**  
**Monday, April 26, 10-11 am**

Hear from legislators and experts who are championing initiatives on the environment, evidence-based funding for schools, and criminal justice reform. Learn where to find information and materials to best advocate for change. [Registration required](#). Registration closes Sunday at 4 pm. Link will be sent Monday morning.

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## Block Illegal Ownership (BIO) Bill HB3245/SB568

LWVIL is one of more than 200 state organizations in the Illinois Gun Violence Prevention Coalition (ILGVP) advocating with a single focus this legislative session—pass the BIO Bill to Fix the FOID (Firearms Owner Identification Card).

If this sounds familiar, it should, as calls to Fix the FOID were prevalent last session when the BIO bill passed the Illinois House. Unfortunately, it stalled in the Senate, as fewer votes were taken due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This session, the BIO bill starts over, and right now it needs a committee hearing. [Contact your legislators](#) today and ask what they are doing to make sure this important piece of gun safety legislation gets passed. If they aren't yet sponsors, ask them to sign on.

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## Redistricting Hearings Completed

State redistricting hearings wind down this week, and the Illinois General Assembly (ILGA) continues to work toward a June 30 state constitutional deadline to approve congressional and legislative maps. This means the maps will not reflect 2020 Census data, which will not be available until September.

In the absence of Census data, community input into map drawing is of crucial importance. LWVIL is one of 30 organizations in the Illinois Redistricting Collaborative that is working hard for an open and transparent mapping process to ensure public input and fair representation. Once ILGA draws initial maps, the Redistricting Collaborative's requests include:

- Public release of map proposals
- Two weeks' notice, broadly publicized, of future public hearings
- Two-week period between public release of map proposals and votes on proposals to allow time for public feedback and lawmaker response



- Map proposals to include reports showing compliance with the Federal and Illinois Voting Rights Acts

Find out more about the Redistricting Collaborative's work at [CHANGE Illinois](#).

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# PEOPLE POWERED FAIR MAPS™

## LWVUS People Powered Fair Maps Day of Action Thursday, April 29, 9 am

[Join the LWVUS pep rally](#) for Fair Redistricting, hosted by LWV CEO Virginia Kase.

Then join the LWVIL media blitz from 10 am to noon!

1. Share LWVIL's Fair Maps social media posts on all of your networks.
2. [Contact your legislators](#) by email or phone and say the following:

"My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I support Fair Redistricting Maps. Without Census data, I think it is important that after the maps are drawn, there are additional public hearings, allowing for public input and legislative incorporation of that input. Ideally, legislation should be introduced to push back the constitutional dates for mapping and primary elections so that Census date can be included. Our district maps must represent communities of interest fairly—all voices deserve to be heard."

There are 3500 LWVIL members in Illinois. Together, we can, and always have, made a difference. Every voice counts. Join Leagues around the country to raise the call for People Powered Fair Maps.

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## Voting Rights Day of Action Saturday, May 8

Join the National [John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Action Day](#) as part of 100 events nationwide encouraging the passage of the For the People Act (S1), the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (HR 4) and D.C. Statehood (HR51). Find a [votecade in your area](#), or learn more to [create and register your own event](#).

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# VOTE

IllinoisVoterGuide.org

## Local Leagues Deliver for Spring Elections

Thanks to all Leaguers for the amount of work they put into the Spring Consolidated

Elections. Once again, the Illinois Voter Guide proved a valuable resource, providing more than 39,000 viewers from nearly 600 cities with information on more than 4,300 races statewide. Local Leagues submitted 150 candidate forums, featuring 636 candidates and collected another 150 candidate statement videos for the guide.

Well-trained forum moderators are responsible for LWVIL's highly respected candidate forums and the state now has a total of 94 trained moderators, with 21 completing training April 17.



## New Advocacy Resources

BillTrack50, an exciting new feature on the [Action Alerts](#) page of the LWVIL website, is a continually updated list of bills for which Action Alerts have been issued. Find supplemental information and bill status with a single click on this list curated by LWVIL Issue Specialists. Find the latest Action Alerts posted on the same page, for one-stop-advocacy.

In need of a quick 'how to' refresher? You'll also find three new videos on the [Action Alerts](#) page: How to Track Bills, How to File a Witness Slip, and Tips for Lobbying.

In case you missed it, a [recording](#) of the April 19 Legislative Hour is available on the [Webinars and Videos](#) page. Please listen to this dynamic conversation about recent Illinois legislative gains in healthcare (Representative Lilly), criminal justice (Senator Sims) and ballot access (Senator Morrison, Representative Stuart).



## LWVIL Convention

**June 12–13**

All those interested in being convention delegates should make sure to contact their League President. Presidents must submit all delegate names to LWVIL, and then LWVIL will send delegates an invitation to register. Early registration for delegates closes on May 8. Information about registration for general member viewing along with convention reports and materials will be available in late May.

## Event Calendar

Connect with local Leagues across the state. Post and find virtual candidate forums and other educational events on our website's [events calendar](#).

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## Defend Democracy with Us

LWVIL is seeking an Executive Director to work in partnership with the Board to achieve the strategic goals and objectives of the League. The Executive Director is accountable for the day-to-day administration of LWVIL and provides management and oversight in multiple areas. [Read the job description](#) and apply by sending your resume and cover letter to the Human Resources committee at [hr@lwvil.org](mailto:hr@lwvil.org). Resumes and letters will be accepted until the position is filled.

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The League of Women Voters Illinois Education Fund (LWVILEF) encourages the informed and active participation in government by providing civic education and voter services. [Make a difference today](#) for you and your community with a tax-deductible gift to support our work to defend democracy and empower voters.

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