

Member Bulletin

August 2022

Midterm election season is HERE. Right now.

This is a time for personal action. What will YOU do to educate and empower voters?

Here is an idea—this year grab a friend and serve as an [election poll worker](#). Poll workers support early voting locations, ensure technology functions, and help minimize delays at polling places on election day. The work is easy, [training is provided](#), you'll meet some new people. My children did it multiple times in high school. I have friends, who are not League members—who save the date and take a vacation day to be part of free and fair elections.

At the end of election day you will go home knowing you made a difference - that as a poll worker you helped ensure a safe, fair, efficient election for all voters. [Get connected to Power the Polls](#) and be present on election day!

What else will you do?

From now until election day it is incumbent on every single one of us to do as much as we can to personally help get out the vote. How many times have you said “every voice counts”? We have to believe and act on those words.

Each of us must be personally accountable for helping bring one, two, three, ten voices to the polls, voices that might otherwise not be heard have voted. New voters. Voters who need rides, voters who are voting in new districts, voters who say their vote doesn't matter, voters who just leave everything to the last minute. Reach out. What will you do to make sure registered voters actually fill out and submit ballots?

Introduce people to the LWVIL's Illinois Voter Guide, the one, single tool you need to help voters find ALL the information they need—information about candidates and their stances on issues, forum recordings, how to register, what is on their ballot, where and when to turn in ballots or show up at a polling place.

History tells us—voter turnout for midterm elections is low. Let's each do our part to

make a new history, by getting out the vote in numbers greater than ever.

Voters defend democracy. Each of us is responsible for empowering voters.

Together we can make an incredible difference. Let's go LWVIL members!



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

President

League of Women Voters of Illinois

Election Day is less than 3 months away!

Voter turnout for the Illinois primary was about 21%

Registered Voters: 8,094,014

Primary Voters: 1,689,189 (92 of 108 reporting election authorities)

It is imperative that we get out the vote for the November 8 election.

This fall, it is up to us to help voters find the information they need to vote their values. 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.



Help voters find information they need.

Help voter find the information they need to vote their values—it's easy when you can send them to the Illinois Voter Guide, their one-stop-shop for candidate and ballot information.

Find ideas, inspiration and graphics to share on the [LWVIL website](#). Check out the [Get Out the Vote Idea Guide](#), designed to help local Leagues energize and activate voters. Then go to the [GOTV Toolbox](#) for downloadable LWVIL graphics for social media and printable items.

Primary Election candidate information available via the Illinois Voter Guide:

- 1322 positions/races
- 2634 candidates
- 34 forums featuring 101 candidates
- 115 candidates in statement videos from LWV Cook County and WTTW

User statistics for the 40-day Primary Election season:

- 38,266 visits

Total visits to IVG, January through June 2022: 43,418

- 657 cities
- 329,204 views of positions/races
- 577,034 views of candidates



**New voting
districts?
Avoid
surprises
at the
ballot box**

Post-census redistricting resulted in major changes to legislative district maps in Illinois. For many voters, this means they will no longer vote in the district in which they have voted for the past decade.

As we work to greatly increase voter registration and turnout, it is possible that a LOT of voters will be unaware of their new districts. Twenty-one percent of registered voters who voted in the Primary Election know their voting district.

Help voters learn about their district changes! Make redistricting education a part of all your voter interactions—newsletters, social media, voter registration, forums and any other events.

IllinoisVoterGuide.org makes it easy for voters to find their new district, with a “Find Your 2022 District” button. This takes voters to an interactive map on the Illinois State Board of Elections website. Voters simply click on the Illinois map and enter their home address. They can find their new district number under 2022 United States Congressman, 2022 State Senator, and 2022 State Representative tabs.

The Civic Holidays are Coming!



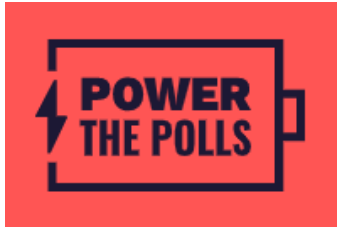
Celebrating the Civic Holidays on Social Media: Thursday, August 18

1:00 pm [Register for webinar](#)

Learn how to elevate your voice and make all of your voter education “informative and fun” at this National Voter Registration Day webinar on leveraging the power of social media for the benefit of democracy.

National Voter Registration Day: September 20
National Voter Education Week: October 3–7

Step up to Power the Polls!



Round up your friends and family and [sign up to work the polls](#) this November! Our democracy depends on ordinary people who make sure every election runs smoothly and everyone's vote is counted. You can make a big difference on Election Day by helping make sure we have safe, fair, and efficient elections for all.

Maintaining Nonpartisan Status

The League of Women Voters is respected as a source of nonpartisan information—a civic organization that does not support or oppose any candidate or party. During election season, it is crucial that the League maintain a strict nonpartisan stance in all voter education efforts.

This means making a clear separation between any lobbying or legislation education and voter registration efforts. It also means refraining from public meetings or appearances with any elected official who is currently running for office.

In a political arena that is often divided on strict party lines, this can make constructing questions for candidate forums particularly challenging. LWVUS offers a [helpful guide](#) so Leagues can avoid the appearance of bias or partisanship in candidate forum questions.

For a more in-depth discussion about ensuring forum questions are not biased, please register for [LWVIL Moderator Training](#) on Saturday, September 10, 10:00–11:00 am .



Virtual Town Hall

Wednesday, September 7

7:00 pm [Register for zoom](#) or [watch on Facebook Live on September 7](#).

What can be done to repair the harm to Illinois school systems resulting from decades of systemic racism? LWVIL joins its many partners in the Promote Equity Coalition to co-sponsor this important discussion.

Take a look at the impact of systemic racism on Illinois public school funding, curriculum and overall school culture. Learn about critical steps communities can take to improve education equity from a panel of educators and advocates.

- [Beatriz Diaz-Pollack](#), Senior Counsel, Education Equity, [Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights](#)
 - [Ana Mercado](#), Student Organizer, H.E.A.L. Together, [Race Forward](#)
 - [Greg Michie](#), Teacher, Chicago Public Schools; Author, *Holler If You Hear Me*, *See You When We Get There*, and *We Don't Need Another Hero*.
 - [Sonya Whitaker, PhD](#), Deputy Superintendent, Dolton Riverdale [School District 148](#); National Education Policy Director, [Rainbow PUSH Coalition](#)
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Virtual Briefing

Thursday, September 8

12:30–1:30 pm [Register to attend.](#)

The [Pretrial Fairness Act](#) ends money bail in Illinois on January 1, 2023. Learn about the importance of this historic act when you join LWVIL for a panel discussion with:

- [Sharone Mitchell](#), [Cook County Public Defender](#)
- [Mallory Littlejohn](#), Legal Director, [Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation](#)
- [Sarah Staudt](#), Policy Director, [Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts](#)

Explore the ways pretrial justice reform can contribute to increased community stability and safety. Find out how the state is preparing for the end of money bail and what needs to be done to ensure the Pretrial Fairness Act is successfully implemented. Panel members will be available to answer questions.

This event is open to the public. Registration closes 24 hours prior to the event. The event link will be sent a day in advance and one hour before the event.

LWVIL Moderator Training

Saturday, September 10

10:00–11:00 am [Register to attend.](#)

The League's well-moderated candidate forums are a League hallmark thanks to well-trained moderators! Make sure we have enough moderators to meet the demand by attending moderator training.

Members only. Registration closes 24 hours prior to the event. The event link will be sent a day in advance and one hour before the event.

Our power as allies lies in our ability to amplify a single message across Illinois.

Expand League impact, educate voters statewide!

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 calendar page, lwwil.org>[News & Events](#)>[Event calendar](#).

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



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