

Member Bulletin



Letter from the President

Dear League members and friends of the League,

In the weeks since the murder of George Floyd, the voices of outrage and calls for change have grown exponentially and yet still we witness the very horrors that we condemn. We have a long way to go to dismantle systemic racism in our country. The enormity of the challenge must not overwhelm us, it must motivate us. There is no better time to state, unequivocally, that the League of Women Voters of Illinois opposes racism in all its forms and strives to be anti-racist in all endeavors. The League will continue to advocate for our positions which are based in civil engagement, social justice and equity for all.

As events unfold with ever increasing rapidity around us, LWVIL Board recognizes the need for more frequent communication. We are pleased to introduce this new monthly Members Bulletin as a way to keep you up-to-date on League developments and opportunities throughout the state. You will continue to receive the monthly News You Can Use and can stay in touch on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

As always, I welcome your brainstorm, concerns and comments.

Best wishes, be safe, stay well,

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

President

League of Women Voters of Illinois

LWVUS National Convention: June 25-27, 2020

An unprecedented number of LWVIL members will be able to participate in LWVUS convention this year thanks to the new virtual format. A number of options are available for everyone, not just those who have registered as delegates and observers.

All League members are invited to view the Thursday evening June 24 "Expanding the Vote" panel presentation on [Facebook Live 7:30-8:40pm ET](#) and can attend all

caucuses. To learn more about/register for caucuses and workshops, please visit [the LWVUS website](#).

LWVIL members will be presenting three caucuses:

- LWV La Grange Area will be presenting [How To Coordinate a Successful Candidate Forum](#)
- LWV Evanston will be presenting [Climate Emergency - Time for All Hands on Deck](#)
- LWVIL Electoral College Committee will be presenting [Abolishing the Electoral College](#).

During Convention, registered Delegates will be voting to approve the following:

- [Proposed National Program for 2020-2022](#)
- [Proposed Bylaws Amendments](#)
- [Proposed LWVUS 2020-2022 Budget and Per Member Payment](#)
- [Election of 2020-2022 Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee](#)

Let's take LWVIL's Electoral College Work National

Abolishing the Electoral College via Constitutional Amendment has been a LWVUS position for 50 years - LWVIL thinks it is time to revive it as a national action focus.

Every League member in the state can help make this happen by doing the following three things to support LWVIL's efforts during LWVUS Convention:

1. Ask your League's convention delegates to vote to make Abolishing the Electoral College via Constitutional Amendment an LWVUS action focus.
2. Ask your delegates to support the Resolution calling for a reaffirmation of the League's commitment to this cause.
3. [Sign up for our LWVIL virtual caucus](#), Wednesday, June 24 at 5:00 pm Central Time to learn more about the Electoral College and ask questions.

Abolishing the Electoral College via Constitutional Amendment should be a critical component in "Making Democracy Work®." A national action focus will enable us to effectively advocate with other Leagues throughout the US and lobby our respective members of Congress for this long-overdue amendment. Questions? Reach out to [LWVIL Board Member, Rosemary Heilemann](#).

Criminal Justice Update Study

The events of early summer illustrate why LWVIL must update its [Criminal Justice Position](#). A glaring omission in our position is any reference to policing. But in addition, in the years since the position was last updated, criminal justice reform efforts have revealed that our justice system is not only ineffective but unjust in many ways.

And so we have endeavored to propose consensus questions which address the totality of the system through fourteen sections which deal with: impoverished

communities, bias, gender issues, the need for data collection and transparency, criminal justice coordinating councils, policing, pretrial procedures, restorative justice, emerging adults, courtroom procedures and access, sentencing laws and procedures, incarceration and Mandatory Supervised Release, post-incarceration and successful reentry, and funding.

We, the Criminal Justice Position Update Committee, are eager to help local Leagues in their study process so that our consensus meetings in January will yield results that produce a renewed position, allowing us to engage more fully in criminal justice advocacy.

Please visit the [LWVIL Criminal Justice Study Update webpage](#) to find important resources, including: *Introduction to the Study, Background Information for all 14 Study Questions, Yes/No Matrix, Glossary, Written Resources, Video Resources, Speakers Bureau, and Study Timeline.*

LWVUS Endorses Eight Policy Priorities for Policing

The Leadership Conference, NAACP, LWVUS, and more than 400 other organizations and federal legislators endorsed [Eight policy priorities](#) for policing legislation. These priorities are in support of the Black Lives Matter movement and speak truth to power about generations of abuse of Black people and communities at the hands of law enforcement. These policy positions create a framework of accountability for law enforcement and law makers and help us all to support comprehensive justice reform. Please share this important work, get involved by participating in the LWVIL Criminal Justice Study Update with your local League.

Vote by Mail Legislation Becomes Law

Although both the House and Senate passed SB1863 during the Special Session May 20 - 23, it was just sent to the Governor on June 12th and signed into law on June 16th!

With this bill becoming a **LAW**, we can start with our education of our members and communities. You can help by:

- Contacting your local election authorities to confirm they can make the appropriate changes to their websites/other contact media to comply with the new regulations.
- Offer any assistance to the local election authorities. Make sure that local leagues that share the same election authority coordinate contact. (The Cook County ILO is the “point League” for Cook County.)
- Notify your members and your community that they may request a vote by mail (VBM) ballot NOW.
- Encourage the request for a VBM ballot to be done electronically versus using a paper request.
- Remind those who apply for a VBM ballot that the ballot will not be sent out until September 24th.

The LWWIL Voter Service Committee is preparing a toolkit with information and graphics that can be shared by members and on social media. Watch for more information.

LWWIL 100th Anniversary Luncheon goes VIRTUAL

September 24, 2020
12 PM

Honoring Our Past...Envisioning our Future -- We Are Not Done Yet!

Our new virtual format makes it possible for the whole League to meet together for our annual LWWIL fundraiser. Leaguers around the state will be able to gather via computer, tablet or smartphone - no driving or hotel needed! More details will be available soon, so be sure to SAVE THE DATE and watch for announcements regarding ticket sales, sponsorship opportunities, and guest speakers.

Mark your calendar now!

Questions? Reach out to [Virtual Event Committee Chair Erin Roeper](#).

State Treasurer Mints 19th Amendment Commemorative Coin

On June 10, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs announced the minting of a new coin to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. [Senate Joint Resolution 28](#), sponsored by Sen. Ann Gillespie and Rep. Deb Conroy, authorized Treasurer Frerichs to issue a medallion or coin under the Commemorative Medallions Act to commemorate this great accomplishment for women. The Illinois General Assembly unanimously approved SJR 28 in 2019. For more information or to pre-order the 19th Amendment Commemorative Coin, please [visit the Illinois State Treasurer website](#).

First Call for LWWIL Board Nominations for 2021-2023 Term

The LWWIL Nominations Committee is seeking nominations for the 2021-23 LWWIL Board of Directors. This volunteer position is both an honor and a responsibility. State board members join with other dynamic leaders to codify committee goals and functions, oversee and strengthen LWWIL's financial future, and increase the visibility of the organization statewide. **Are you or someone you know interested in learning more about this opportunity?** Please contact [LWWIL Nominations Committee Chair Hilary Denk](#) to share the name of prospect for the board, to receive an application packet later this summer, or with any questions. Thank you and looking forward to building the future of LWWIL with our next group of leaders.

Important Dates to Remember

- [June 24: "Expanding the Vote" panel presentation via Facebook Live](#)
- [June 25 -27: 54th LWVUS Convention](#)
- August 26: 100th Anniversary of adoption of 19th Amendment
- [September 22: National Voter Registration Day](#)
- September 24: LWVIL 100th Anniversary VIRTUAL Luncheon Fundraiser
- [October 24: Vote Early Day](#)
- June 11-13, 2021: LWVIL Convention

Please note that this list of important dates is not exhaustive. You can find more events on the [LWVIL Events Calendar](#). Dates are subject to change due to the COVID-19 virus and safety protocols.



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.

Don't forget to follow, like and share with us on social media!



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