

# Member Bulletin

September 2022

Trust. People trust the League of Women Voters.

For more than 102 years, the League has served as a trusted source of accurate and important information.

The foundation of this trust is that the League is nonpartisan - we neither support or oppose candidates or parties. Because of this, people of all political beliefs listen to our voice.

How does the public know the League is nonpartisan?

Nonpartisanship is reflected in everything we do. Not only do we state our policy clearly at our events, in our publications, and in our social media, we live up to its standards whenever any one of us is representing the League in any capacity.

Nonpartisanship means the League protects the rights of all voters, provides public access to candidate information for all candidates, hosts candidate forums that are open to all candidates and only held when more than one candidate agrees to participate.

Nonpartisanship means the League does not host events which include candidates as speakers, does not cosponsor events featuring candidates, and League members do not take, or post on social media, photos with candidates.

As League members, it is the responsibility of each and every one of us to uphold the League's nonpartisan status and by doing so maintain that very important trust which the public places in our organization.

Thanks to the hard work and commitment of every single member of the League, we are a trusted source of information and an important resource for our communities—defending democracy by empowering voters.

Allyson

Allyson E. Haut, Ph.D.

President

League of Women Voters of Illinois



## What? There's an election in November?

A few days ago, some LWWIL members held a voter registration event at a senior home. A nurse's aide walked by, curious as to what the League was doing. When she found out, she said "What election in November...is it for president?"

Surprised? Or can you tell a similar story?

For the past months, the lives of League members have revolved around voting. Together, we have planned voter registration drives, candidate forums, and get out the vote events. We have prepared our materials and cleared our calendars. We are ready.

We are dedicated to reaching as many voters as possible. And we are reaching out to other organizations to work with. Everyone we talk to knows about the upcoming election! Welcome to our comfortable echo chamber.

But what about that nurse's aide?

The media doesn't elevate midterm and consolidated elections the same way as presidential elections. So if the nurse's aide gets most of her information from the media, then she won't know.

Historically, voter turnout for midterm elections is abysmal. Is lack of awareness part of the problem? Do voters not realize what is at stake?

Perhaps they don't.

This is where our grassroots League efforts can make a big difference. It is vital that every League member do more to increase public awareness. Step outside of your comfort zone. Talk to people you don't know in your community, write letters to the editor, offer to take people to the polls. Share the League's nonpartisan information. Incessantly.

There is an election in six weeks, and democracy is on the ballot. Make sure everyone knows how important it is to use their power at the ballot box.

# LWV supports democracy, not candidates or parties.

**Protect  
our  
respect.**



**Make sure  
all League  
events are  
strictly  
nonpartisan.**

The League is a highly respected resource for nonpartisan information, which can be hard to find during our hyper-partisan times! During election season, it is crucial that you and your League are staunch guardians of our nonpartisanship.

State this clearly and often, at events, in your publications and on social media: the League does not support or oppose candidates or parties, but does work to influence public policy on specific issues after member study and consensus.

**Avoid any appearance of bias:**

- Make sure there is a clear separation between voter education and any advocacy or legislation education activities
- Voter education and advocacy should not take place at the same event
- League members may not advocate for, or mention, ballot items such as referenda in the vicinity of a forum venue
- Leagues should not schedule or promote meetings or education activities with any candidates for office, including any elected officials who are running for office
- When in doubt, err on the side of caution, and please reach out to [voterservice@lwvil.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvil.org).

The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or party. Period.

## This is OUR TIME, League of Women Voters!



**Time to  
Get Out  
The Vote!**

Early voting starts at the office of most election authorities on September 29! (This is also the first day that vote by mail ballots may be sent out.)

However, voters in Chicago and Cook County have a different early voting schedule:

- October 7: Early voting begins at the Chicago Super Site
- October 12: Early voting begins at the Cook County election authority office

The [Illinois Voter Guide](#) provides all the information voters need in one place, no matter their zipcode. Candidate information will be available September 29, and

people using the guide will find the following resources:

- Registration information
- Where and when to vote (early, by mail, election day)
- Candidate stances
- Candidate forum recordings
- Information on judges
- Wording of ballot referenda



**Know your candidates.**  
**Information is power.**  
**Vote your values.**



100% nonpartisan election information for every zipcode in the state.  
Powered by the League of Women Voters of Illinois, activated by you!



**Know your candidates.**  
**Make a plan.**  
**Vote your values.**



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**Know your candidates.**  
**Use your voice.**  
**Vote your values.**



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Business cards make it easy to help voters find the nonpartisan, neutral information they need. Print Illinois Voter Guide cards, carry them with you at all times, and share widely. Click on our new business card artwork above, or find it on the LWVIL website in the [GOTV Toolbox](#). Everyone can spread the word and get out the vote!



**Be inspired!**

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

## Be prepared at the ballot box



**Illinois has  
new voting  
districts**

Post-census redistricting resulted in major changes to legislative district maps in Illinois.

Help voters learn about their district changes with the “Find Your 2022 District” button in the [Illinois Voter Guide](#). Voters simply click on the Illinois map and enter their home address. They can find their new district number under the 2022 United States Congressman, 2022 State Senator, and 2022 State Representative tabs.

**There is a  
statewide  
ballot  
measure**

Every voter in the state will have the opportunity to vote for or against [Amendment 1](#) at the top of their ballot. This amendment proposes a change to the Bill of Rights Article 1 of the Illinois state constitution.

Voters will find the exact wording of the Amendment in the [Illinois Voter Guide](#) when they view their ballot.

## Voters are the heart of our democracy.

We know that when we protect and strengthen voter access to the ballot, we protect and strengthen our democracy. We know that voter registration is only the first step. We know that informed voters VOTE.



With more than 3500 members across the state, the League can make a big impact on voter turnout. Each and every one of us must be dedicated to activating voters by making sure they can access the information they need to vote their values.

Our democracy is at stake.

## Step up to Power the Polls!



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



October 3–7



Monday, November 7

## Education opportunities

### LWVIL Observer Training

Saturday, October 22

10:00–11:00 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.

*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.*

### Identifying Election Misinformation

LWVUS is partnering with The News Literacy Project (NLP) to present the first two in a series of 3 webinars addressing election misinformation:

- **October 18, 5 p.m. ET: Are you being informed or influenced? News literacy skills to prioritize information from credible sources** Learn how to evaluate the credibility of information sources and tips for expert-level web searching to check claims for yourself. [Register here.](#)
- **October 25, 5 p.m. ET: Spotting election misinformation and understanding motivations behind how and why it spreads** Learn common types of election misinformation and how to spot the red flags that can alert you to dubious claims. [Register here.](#)
- **November 1, 5 p.m. ET: How to debunk misinformation and engage in**

**productive conversations without confrontation** Learn how to verify reliable information that you can share with family and friends while avoiding heated arguments. [Register here.](#)

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## Pretrial Fairness Act–Get the facts!

Get the facts about the [Pretrial Fairness Act](#), which ends money bail in Illinois on January 1, 2023. Learn how pretrial justice reform can contribute to increased community stability and safety and ways you can take action to help ensure the Pretrial Fairness Act is successfully implemented. Find the recorded LWVIL briefing and additional materials on the [LWVIL website \(News & Events>News from LWVIL.\)](#)

Don't let misinformation spread. Share the LWVIL briefing page widely.

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## School Board Candidate Training

The Illinois Association of School Boards is recording a series of webinars about *How to Navigate Running for School Board*. Information and recordings can be found at <https://www.iasb.com/memberships-and-divisions/school-board-elections/>

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**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.*



**Donate**

[View as Webpage](#)