



Volume 67, Issue 6

February 2013

## FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

### **Answering the Mandate: Comprehensive Sex Education in Champaign County Schools**

Come join us for a forum discussion of local efforts to establish sex education in local schools--hearing from those who were involved in the critical organizing to pass the mandate and the administrators working on next steps.

Speakers will include:

- Corbin Dixon, Lead Downstate Educator, Planned Parenthood of Illinois
- Kim Rice, Sexuality Educator, McKinley Health Center
- Kathie Spegal, Case Manager, Prairie Health Systems

## FEBRUARY 2013 MEETING

### **Comprehensive Sex Education in Champaign County Schools**

**Where: Urbana City Council Chambers**  
**When: Thursday, February 14th**  
**Brown Bag Lunch: 11:30**  
**Program: Noon-1PM**

National League News

**“Everywhere we look there is work to be done.”**

By Elisabeth MacNamara

*“Voting is the foundation stone for political action.”*

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Washington, D.C.** – On Monday, Americans across the country will celebrate two major national events: Martin Luther King Jr. Day (MLK Day) and the 57<sup>th</sup> U.S. Presidential Inauguration.

Each MLK Day, we honor the invaluable contributions to democracy made by Dr. Martin Luther King, the only non-president to have a federal holiday dedicated in his honor. King is largely responsible for passage of the monumental Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 – legislation the League has long championed – which insures that no federal, state or local government can prevent individuals from voting based on race or ethnicity.

This year, MLK Day will be celebrated as an estimated 600,000-800,000 people will gather in the nation’s capital to witness the 57<sup>th</sup> U.S. Presidential Inauguration. A tradition since George Washington’s inauguration over 200 years ago, the ceremony will present the public swearing-in of President Barack Obama as well as the President’s Inaugural Address. As we honor these two milestones on Monday, we must remember that Dr. King’s work is not yet done.

**League of Women Voters of Champaign  
County Officers for 2012-2013**

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Do you have friends or acquaintances who might be interested in the League? Share your newsletter! We will add them for three months to the mailing list for *the Voter*. Email [lvv.il.cc@gmail.com](mailto:lvv.il.cc@gmail.com) or call Sue Phillips at 359-8818 or Margaret Olson at 344-6390 with the name of anyone who might be interested.

CONTINUED FROM NATIONAL NEWS, page 1

According to the Brennan Center for Justice, roughly 21 million Americans are at risk of becoming disenfranchised as a result of ongoing voter suppression and intimidation tactics. The League continues to fight for voters' rights: In September, I testified on Capitol Hill against attempts to weaken laws that protect voters' core constitutional right to vote and fundamental American values, and Leagues across the country helped ensure that hundreds of thousands of voters could cast their ballot this past election cycle.

In his January 2009 Inaugural Address, President Obama noted, "...[E]verywhere we look, there is work to be done." Today, this assertion still rings true. In his acceptance speech following Election Day, Obama acknowledged the issues faced by voters across the country, some of whom waited in lines for up to nine hours. "We have to fix that," he said. The League couldn't agree more, and we've identified four concrete solutions.

It has been nearly half a century since the passage of the VRA, yet we are still engaged in Dr. King's fight for the right to vote, and his work remains more important than ever. As we approach Inauguration Day, we call on President Obama to hold to his promise and work to strengthen voters' rights, and we urge you to join the fight as well.

**LWVCC STUDY - CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE SYSTEM NEEDS**

Currently the committee is reading through multiple reports on the criminal justice system in Champaign County. If you are interested in joining this committee please contact Michelle for the study materials and plan to attend our next meeting, Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 9AM at Espresso Royale on S. Neil Street.

Please consider joining this important study. For more information please contact Michelle Jett at [michellejett1@gmail.com](mailto:michellejett1@gmail.com) or 217-766-9677.

**CANDIDATE FORUM**

Voter Service is in the process of organizing a Candidate Forum for the Democratic Primary Election for the Mayor and City Clerk in Urbana. These are the only contested offices in Champaign County on the February 26 Primary Election ballot.

Because League guidelines do not allow us to hold 'empty seat' debates, we are waiting to hear from candidates for each office in order to finalize a date.

Just in case all the arrangements fall into place, the Urbana City Council Chambers have been reserved for Tuesday, February 12 from 7:30-9:30 pm.

Watch your email or The News-Gazette for confirmation or call Carole at 217-377-9148.

## Membership Form – League of Women Voters of Champaign County

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Include this email address in the League Membership Directory? YES NO (please circle one)

Please circle the type of membership: Individual Dues\* \$65.00 Student Dues\* \$5.00  
Household Dues\* \$97.50 #NEW Member Due \$32.50 #New Household Dues \$48.75

Please make checks payable to LWVCC, and mail to: Sue Phillips, 1018 W William, Champaign, IL 61821

#Dues for new members, for one year, are half the amount paid by continuing members.

\*Dues and donations are not tax deductible as charitable contributions from your federal income tax return. You may, however, make a tax deductible contribution to the Education Fund (of LWVCC) by writing a separate check made payable to "LWVIL Education Fund". Please include "Champaign County" on the memo line of your check.

Check your Voter mailing label for the month your membership dues are payable.

## LWVIL Graduated Rate Income Tax (GRIT) Project

**About the Graduated Rate Income Tax (GRIT) Project :** The League of Women Voters of Illinois is partnering with the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability on this GRIT project. We share the common belief that the economy is of paramount importance to Illinois families and one of the best ways to achieve economic growth is by having a well educated population. Having a structural deficit weakens our ability to provide for a strong economy. Having an inefficient revenue system is the basis for that structural deficit and we believe a better fiscal system is a graduated rate income tax

**Scope and Focus:** The LWVIL Graduated Rate Income Tax Project will educate Illinoisans about the issues of a progressive as opposed to a flat tax; work to lobby for a bill to change the Illinois constitution, and; ultimately support and promote the approval of the amendment which will permit the graduated tax rate in Illinois.

For more information visit: <http://www.lwvil.org/GRITProject.asp>

*Three LWVCC members (Trisha Crowley, Steve Rugg and Debbie Rugg) are the first of hopefully many of us who will respond to the above web site to get education and training about GRIT. Please join us!*

### \*NEW\* League Study Beginning

Join our local League group to study the LWVIL Fiscal Policy action item for the biennium: Leading the Way to a Graduated Rate Income Tax (GRIT) for Illinois!

Please let Debbie Rugg know if you would like to join this study, [debrugg@aol.com](mailto:debrugg@aol.com) or 621-7180. The LWVIL has study materials as well as some training sessions which we hope to attract to our CU area.

At our Annual Meeting in May, we will hear and learn more from a special speaker who is an expert and driving force on this topic.

### Exploring Alternatives to Incarceration: A Dialogue

The League's student intern, Jessica Gao, is hosting an event to generate student interest in the League. Please support her by attending this exciting discussion.

Panel speakers include Rebecca Ginsburg from the Educational Justice Program, Sister Carol Ammons, former Champaign County Board member and community activist, and our own knowledgeable LWVCC Justice Committee Chair Joan Miller.

When: Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Time: 5:30-7PM  
Where: Women's Resource Center, in the old bank on the corner of Green and Wright, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

League of Women Voters of Champaign County  
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GOES  
HERE

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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The League of Women Voters of Champaign County, IL PO Box 201, Urbana, IL 61803-0201

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### CRIMINAL SYSTEM STUDY NEEDS

WHEN: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH

TIME: 9AM-10AM

WHERE: ESPRESSO ROYALE, 1411 S. NEIL, C

### LWVIL ANNUAL ISSUES BRIEFING

WHEN: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH

TIME: 8:30AM-3:00PM

WHERE: UNIVERSITY CENTER, CHICAGO, IL

### CANDIDATE FORUM \*TENTATIVE\*

WHEN: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

TIME: 7:30-9:30PM

WHERE: URBANA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 400 S. VINE, U

### EXPLORING ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION: A DIALOGUE

WHEN: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

TIME: 5:30-7PM

WHERE: WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER, 703 S. WRIGHT, C

*ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR OF THE OLD BUSEY BANK BUILDING*

### GENERAL MEETING

WHEN: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

TIME: 11:30AM: BROWN BAG; NOON-1:00PM PRESENTATION

WHERE: URBANA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 400 S. VINE, U

TOPIC: COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION

### BOARD MEETING

WHEN: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST

TIME: 12PM-1:30PM

LOCATION: CHAMPAIGN PUBLIC LIBRARY, 200 W. GREEN, C

## LWVCC Volunteer Opportunities

### GRADUATED RATE INCOME TAX STUDY COMMITTEE

Please let Debbie Rugg know if you would like to join this study, [debrugg@aol.com](mailto:debrugg@aol.com) or 621-7180.

### OBSERVER CORPS BOARD WATCHER

Champaign Unit 4 School Board

Urbana Park District

Urbana Planning Commission