



Volume 69, Issue 3

November 2013

**NOVEMBER PROGRAM:**

**The Intersection of Mental Health Services and the Criminal Justice System**

Please join us for a panel discussion regarding the impact and implications of mental health services and needs in the criminal justice system.

The panel will include:

- Sheila Ferguson, Executive Director of Community Elements
- Peter Tracy, Executive Director of the Champaign County Mental Health Board
- Allen Jones, Chief Deputy of the Champaign County Sheriff's Office

This discussion is a continuation of the issues detailed in the ILPP assessment of the Champaign County criminal justice system. Mental health services and needs have been identified as a utilizing a significant amount of money and staffing by both the report and the Sheriff's department. Please join us for an opportunity to discuss how we as a community can better serve those with mental health concerns and save tax payer money by keeping the jail population low.

**WANTED**

**Secretary to the LWVCC Board**

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- 1) Good listener
- 2) Able to follow lively discussions to their resolutions
- 3) Available for 9 AM monthly meetings on 4th Tuesdays

**CONTACT:** Barbara Wysocki at 367-5014 or [bwysocki16@gmail.com](mailto:bwysocki16@gmail.com)

**NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETINGS - *yes, two of them. Come to one or both.***

**The Intersection of Mental Health Services and the Criminal Justice System**

**Evening:**  
Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, Time: 7PM  
Where: Champaign Public Library

**Noontime Tape Replay:**  
Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, Time: 11:30-1:30  
Where: Clark-Lindsey Activity Room

## LWVCC Board - 2013-2014

President:	Barbara Wysocki <a href="mailto:bwysocki16@gmail.com">bwysocki16@gmail.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> VP (Organization):	Trisha Crowley <a href="mailto:tcrowley9491@gmail.com">tcrowley9491@gmail.com</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP (Program):	Theresa Michelson <a href="mailto:thmichelson@gmail.com">thmichelson@gmail.com</a>
Secretary:	<i>Vacant</i>
Treasurer:	Sandy Volk <a href="mailto:sandyvolk803@gmail.com">sandyvolk803@gmail.com</a>
Communications:	Debbie Rugg <a href="mailto:debrugg@aol.com">debrugg@aol.com</a>
Criminal Justice Chair	Gerri Kirchner <a href="mailto:gerrikirchner@comcast.net">gerrikirchner@comcast.net</a>
Finance Drive:	Antje Kolodziej <a href="mailto:antje@illinois.edu">antje@illinois.edu</a>
Membership Chair:	Sue Phillips <a href="mailto:suephillips1018@att.net">suephillips1018@att.net</a>
Newsletter Editor:	Michelle Jett <a href="mailto:michellejett1@gmail.com">michellejett1@gmail.com</a>
Observer Corps:	Betty Segal <a href="mailto:bssegal@mindspring.com">bssegal@mindspring.com</a>
Resource Management:	Margaret Olson <a href="mailto:olsonmjo@gmail.com">olsonmjo@gmail.com</a>
Student Intern:	Kim DeGiacomo <a href="mailto:degiaco1@illinois.edu">degiaco1@illinois.edu</a>
Voter Service Chair:	Carole Rebeiz <a href="mailto:caroler57@comcast.net">caroler57@comcast.net</a>
Webmaster:	Corrie Proksa <a href="mailto:corrieproksa@hotmail.com">corrieproksa@hotmail.com</a>
Nominating Committee:	Chair: Lois Gullerud Jan Anderson, Gerri Kirchner

Do you have friends or acquaintances who might be interested in the League? Email Sue Phillips at [suephillips1018@att.net](mailto:suephillips1018@att.net) or phone her at 359-8818 with names and addresses and we will send them *the Voter* for the next three months.

## SAVE THE DATE!

### CELEBRATE THE CENTENNIAL!

Our usual December social will be an extraordinary event as we conclude the year-long celebration of women suffrage in Illinois! Come visit with friends over refreshments, hear Tom Kacich talk about suffrage activity in Champaign County, view suffrage artifacts from the Urbana Archives. Better yet, bring your own stories or precious mementos from League or women's history! Wear your best purple and yellow!

WHEN: Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00  
WHERE: Lewis Auditorium – Urbana Free Library

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

## League of Women Voters of Champaign County

Dear Members,

Who felt during last month's crisis in Washington that the ground, the foundations of government, might be shifting? Seldom do we experience a crisis which so challenged premises we hold about the federal government -- its presence and its impact in our lives. No wonder we are not convinced that party differences have been resolved and we're ready to move on as a nation!

For me, the normalcy of the last month was in all matters League. Being attentive to local government through the work of our Observer Corps, arranging meetings concerning the criminal justice/jail report, focusing on the two referenda efforts that might face Illinois citizens next year reminds one how precious these mundane operations of democratic government are and how we frequently take these routines for granted.

Yet, using the tools of democracy – conducting public meetings, supporting referenda, and studying special reports – invites a messiness that can be upsetting because change (hopefully positive) is inevitably the result. For almost a century, League has steadfastly approached change and its consequences with vigilance, thought, and reasoned action. It's proven to be a good strategy to address the vagaries of American democracy, especially in uncertain times.

Sincerely,  
*Barbara Wysocki*  
LWVCC President



# FAIR TAX ACTION CENTER: FAQs

Source: Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy

**1. Why should we trust other legislators with more of our money?** While Illinois, like many other states, does have some waste, fraud, and abuse, the state is very efficient in the way it manages and spends its income tax revenue. Waste in Illinois mainly describes the huge amounts Illinois spends paying interest on its debts. Illinois spends more than 90% of its discretionary General Fund budget on the four core services of education, healthcare, human services and public safety. Therefore, increasing the state's tax revenue will be incredibly beneficial to the residents of Illinois. Center for Tax and Budget Accountability Analysis

**2. If we raise the flat tax enough, won't it cover Illinois' needs?** How much would we have to raise a flat tax for it to do so? Raising the flat tax would raise additional revenue for Illinois but it would not be the fair way to tax. Raising the flat tax would only create more income inequality in the state since it is not based on an individual's ability to pay. Middle income taxpayers would still pay a larger percentage of their income in taxes than upper income earners. Center for Tax and Budget Accountability Analysis

**3. Isn't a flat tax fairer?** A flat tax is in fact not fairer. When all taxes are combined (including sales tax, property, etc.) middle income earners are paying relatively much more of their salaries in taxes than upper income earners. Since it does not correspond to an individual's ability to pay, a flat tax puts more burden on low and middle income families. Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy

**4. Won't more taxes drive business out of Illinois and won't wealthy people either leave the state or buy property in low tax states as tax shelters to avoid paying more?** Some people may leave or create tax shelters. However, extensive research on tax avoidance indicates that higher income taxes do not play a large part in an individual's decision to leave a state. In fact, income tax isn't even a factor for a great majority of families who move. Other factors such as family, climate, job relocation, and housing play more of a role. As for business, corporate taxes play a very small part in their overall decision. When it comes to building robust, resilient and prosperous economies, more fundamental factors than taxes--like human capital, entrepreneurship, availability of transportation, condition of the infrastructure, and innovation--come into play. Young and Varner (2011)

**5. What happened to all the money that the 66% income tax increase took in? Wasn't that supposed to fix Illinois' fiscal problems?** While Illinois still runs a deficit, had we stayed at a 3% income tax rate our deficit would be at least triple what it is now. While services did see cuts, it would have been far worse without the increase. However, the tax increase will begin to sunset at the end of 2014, with corresponding drops in revenue. It is predicted that Illinois will lose \$4 Billion in revenue in 2015 if there is no change in the tax structure. Center for Tax and Budget Accountability Analysis

**6. Isn't Illinois a high tax state?** In fact, Illinois is not a high tax state. In the Midwest, with the temporary tax increase, Illinois' income tax rate is still second lowest. With the sunset of the temporary increase in 2015, Illinois will once again have the lowest tax rates in the Midwest. Even with total tax burden (all taxes, including sales, property, and ex-cise), Illinois remains one of the lowest tax burden states in the nation. What Illinois IS, is a regressive tax state that puts a greater tax burden on its middle income families.

Hopefully you had the opportunity to attend or see the rebroadcast of the highly informative panel discussion with Claire McIntyre, Jean Pierce, and Representative Naomi Jakobsson, the amendment author.

Champaign County is in a fortunate situation of having our Representative and Senator supporting the HJRCA33/SJRCA40 but we still have work to do. The League hopes to join in coalition efforts to promote accurate information about the fair tax and assist in the next phase of the campaign; voter approval of the amendment.

# FAIR TAX ACTION CENTER

Dear Fellow League Members,

Legislation (HJRCA 33/SJRCA 40) is pending in Springfield for a constitutional amendment on a fair tax allowing for higher rates on higher incomes and lower rates on lower incomes. The League of Women Voters Illinois (LWVIL) supports this plan, rather than the flat tax now imposed in Illinois.

LWVIL believes this amendment will bring fairness to Illinois' tax code, helping Illinois' families. It will help Illinois protect key priorities such as education, public safety, health care, and human services. These vital services have been significantly shortchanged in recent years because of Illinois' systemic budget problems; the result of an out-of-date tax code which overburdens middle income families.

The legislation embodies another important principle: citizen participation. If adopted by the General Assembly, this referendum would ask Illinois voters if they want to amend the 1970 Illinois Constitution, which currently states that the personal income tax must be non-graduated (flat).

The LWVIL knows it is time for long-term budget solutions to help rebuild Illinois' economy and provide sustained support to programs and services that people need. Adoption of a graduated income tax achieves a necessary step in reaching these goals.

Mary Kubasak  
President, League of Women Voters, Illinois

For more info on the Fair Tax Initiative, check out these resources:

LWV of Illinois:  
<http://www.lwvil.org/grit-project.html>

Citizen Action Illinois  
<http://www.citizenaction-il.org>

LWVCC Fair Tax Action  
Group Chair: Debbie Rugg  
[debrugg@aol.com](mailto:debrugg@aol.com)

## League of Women Voters of Illinois Call to Action:

“LWVIL’s fiscal policy position supports a fair, sustainable, stable, and efficient revenue system. LWVIL and its local Leagues have been working for years as advocates for a fair and graduated rate income tax. Without long term, substantive tax reform that addresses the state’s structural deficit, Illinois will continue to slide further into debt, cutting vital services and programs we all need and care about.”

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

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

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

Preferred 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 #New Individual Dues \$32.50  
Student Dues\* \$5.00 Household Dues\* \$97.50 #New Household Dues \$48.75

# 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 to the Education Fund.

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

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

### INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON REDISTRICTING

By early November League President Barbara Wysocki will have 100 petitions on hand regarding the Independent Commission on Redistricting. By April 1, 2014, signatures from 289,000 Illinois citizens must be obtained to have this referendum item on the fall ballot. Please contact her if you're interested in carrying petitions and obtaining signatures from any registered Illinois voter or would like to add your signature to a petition.

Barbara Wysocki, (217-367-5014) or [bwysocki16@gmail.com](mailto:bwysocki16@gmail.com)

For more information about the redistricting initiative be sure to attend the meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2014, the League of Women Voters of Champaign County will host a public meeting on this important topic. Plan now to attend. The place and time will be announced soon.

The League extends its sincerest condolences to League member Jan Anderson on the recent passing of her daughter and son-in-law.

The League of Women Voters of  
Champaign County  
Congratulates

The Champaign-Urbana  
Business Women's Club  
On their 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
Incorporation

Happy Birthday!

### Student Unit Alum News From Amanda Sheffer, Washington DC

The original LWVCC director organizer of our student League, Sherry DeWan has been keeping in touch with former student members. A gift thank you note to her recently included the following:

"It was so funny that (the gift) came the same day I used the League website to show someone why ID cards for voting was problematic-it really got me thinking about the role you played for me and all the others in the student unit. I learned so much from the time and you always supported us no matter how far-reaching my ideas got. I'm so grateful for how you shaped my path."

/s/ Amanda Sheffer

Sherry volunteered when we discussed this note that one of the most important things she thinks she did with the student unit was helping them stay within League guidelines.

## LWVCC 2013-2014 Programs

**September:** The Affordable Care Act: Its Impact on Local Health Care Providers

**October:** Illinois: Time to Pay off the Credit Card

**November:** Champaign County Criminal Justice Review

**December:** Social and Final Celebration of our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**January:** Yes for Independent Maps

**February:** Our Water, Who Controls It?

**March:** Observer Reports

**April:** Observer Reports

**May:** Annual Meeting

**June:** LWVUS Convention Report

League of Women Voters  
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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### GENERAL MEETING – EVENING SESSION

WHEN: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2013

TIME: 7:00PM

LOCATION: CHAMPAIGN PUBLIC LIBRARY

TOPIC: THE INTERSECTION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

### GENERAL MEETING–REPLAY OF 11/19 MEETING

WHEN: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2013

TIME: 11:30AM - 1:30PM

LOCATION: CLARK-LINDSEY ACTIVITY ROOM

TOPIC: THE INTERSECTION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

### BOARD MEETING

WHEN: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2013

TIME: 9AM

LOCATION: CHAMPAIGN PUBLIC LIBRARY

## OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

### FRESH WATER AVAILABILITY: CONFRONTING THE IMMENSE CHALLENGE

Time: 10:45AM-11:30AM

Where: Fellowship Hall, 602 W Green Street, Urbana

Beginning October 6<sup>th</sup>, the First Presbyterian Church of Urbana will conduct a six-week public seminar regarding water, locally and globally. For more info visit: [www.firstpresurbana.org](http://www.firstpresurbana.org)

### UIUC YMCA FRIDAY FORUM

Time: Noon – 1PM

Where: UIUC YMCA, 1002 S Wright Street  
[www.universityymca.org/friday\\_forum/](http://www.universityymca.org/friday_forum/)

Check our website for updates:

[www.lwvchampaigncounty.org](http://www.lwvchampaigncounty.org)



Find us on Facebook!

League of Women Voters of Champaign County

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