



OCTOBER PROGRAM:

**Changing The Illinois Legislature
by Changing the Illinois Constitution:
Limitations and Frustrations**

When: October 21, 2014

Time: 7 p.m.

Where: Champaign Public Library
Robeson Meeting Room C

Speakers: *Professor Brian J. Gaines*,
University of Illinois and Institute
of Government and Public Affairs,
Trisha Crowley, LWVCC

Citizen frustration with Illinois government, and specifically with the Illinois Legislature, have led to recent efforts to modify the Illinois Constitution to restrict terms of legislators and to change how legislative districts are drawn. Both these efforts have currently been struck down by the courts, although the term limits proposal is on appeal.

Trisha Crowley will describe the limitations in the current Illinois Constitution on incremental modifications of the structure of Illinois government.

Professor Gaines will discuss what impacts might have been expected if these efforts had been successful at the ballot box, what other changes by citizen referendum are possible, and whether a vote to approve a future Constitutional Convention is not, in fact, a good option.

The purpose of the program is to educate members about the limited ways to change the structure of Illinois government, and to help evaluate future efforts and future ConCon votes.



Remember the ERA? Following the November election, a three-state strategy will kick in to complete the work of ratification. Illinois is one of the remaining states. LWVCC is one of six co-sponsors of a meeting hosted by AAUW to inform us of recent developments and what we can do during this final push.

WHEN? Tuesday, October 14 from 6 to 8 p.m.

WHERE? Pizza M/Cafeteria & Co.,
208 W. Main St., Urbana

WHY? Why do we need the ERA? What is the ERA? What do we need to do to get this Amendment ratified?

SPECIAL ELECTION MEETING

*Wednesday, October 8,
Champaign City Building*

7 p.m. District 6, Champaign County
Board
Petrie and Jackson

8 p.m. 103 State Representative Seat
Ammons and Williamson

Thursday, October 16, at WILL Studios
(by reservation only – contact Barb Wysocki as soon as possible to reserve a seat!)

7 p.m. 13th Congressional District
Callis and Davis

LWVCC Board - 2014-2015

President: Barbara Wysocki
217-367-5014
bwysocki16@gmail.com

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Mary Kay Pleck
217-344-3747
mkpleck@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Sandy Volk
217-367-7664
sandyvolk003@gmail.com

Directors: Trisha Crowley
217-359-2514
tcrowley9491@gmail.com

Theresa Michelson
217-344-4078
thmichelson@gmail.com

Antje Kolodziej
217-356-1734
antje@illinois.edu

Do you have friends or acquaintances who might be interested in the League? Email Kat Bork at katdenbk@gmail.com or phone her at (217)840-0450 with names and addresses and we will send them *the Voter* for the next three months.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

*League of Women Voters
of Champaign County*

'All politics is local'

— Tip O'Neil

Despite the talk about big money and nasty political ads in our nation and state campaigns, the genius of our democracy rests in local political races. Locally, we can literally reach out and touch candidates who choose to run for county board, county offices, and even candidates for state offices. We encounter them at street festivals and the grocery store. How cool!

Not so this year in Champaign County. Consider:

- Of 11 county board districts, only 3 have competitive races.
- Of 4 county-wide offices, only 1 has a race.

There's more. LWVCC – along with The News-Gazette and the NAACP – co-sponsor Candidates' Forums which allow citizens an opportunity to observe the candidates side by side, responding — unrehearsed — to questions that deal with matters important to us as a county community: the state of our justice system, economic development, budget priorities.

Not so this year in Champaign County. Consider: two county board candidates were unresponsive or unavailable to participate; the one county-wide candidate made other plans as the opposition switched candidates. Even the Congressional candidates agreed to participate but only with a shorter time span than what local media proposed.

Side-stepping local forums is not good for our democratic system. And we cannot blame the Koch Brothers or negative advertising.

Sincerely,

Barbara Wysocki

LWVCC President

IN MEMORIAM: Susan Stone

Long-time League member Susan Stone died on Tuesday, August 26, after a long illness. Her activity in League led her to many other activities in the community at large. Among her many accomplishments were: CCDC, the Regional Planning Commission, and a centennial tree project. She served on the Urbana Park District and the Urbana Library Foundation Board. She served on the U.S. Judicial Nominations Commission of the Central District of Illinois.

A memorial service is set for 2 p.m. Saturday, November 8, at Clark-Lindsey Village.

REDISTRICTING: WHAT'S NEW? WHERE IS IT GOING?

It's gotten a bit quiet on the Redistricting front, but not entirely silent. For the last couple of months, debriefing sessions have been held around the state to assess the experience in local communities. Most of these meetings have involved League chapters since League activity was critical to amassing the number of signatures.

On Sept. 16th, CHANGE Illinois -- the coalition that set

up YES FOR INDEPENDENT MAPS -- met to do the same kind of debriefing. More than 20 were in attendance, including two from LWVIL, to assess what worked well and what adjustments would be necessary to launch a successful third attempt.

It will probably be early in 2015 before a decision is announced regarding a third attempt at another redistricting effort.

Membership Form – League of Women Voters of Champaign County

****RENEW ONLINE! www.lwvchampaigncounty.org****

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 1 year membership: Individual Dues* \$65.00 #New Individual Dues \$32.50
Student Dues* \$5.00 Household Dues* \$97.50 #New Household Dues \$40.75

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.

Please make checks payable to LWVCC, and mail to: Kat Bork 1500 Greenridge Drive, Urbana, Illinois 61802

CALLING ALL COURT WATCHERS

The UI College of Law and LWVCC has had a long-standing partnership in a court watching program. In recent years, our participation has dropped off, and the College of Law is asking to rekindle this collaboration. Observation programs always benefit from fresh eyes and ears. Certainly, the activity of a courtroom can provide much to take in and process, so having more observers would enhance the experience for everyone concerned.

The College of Law will train volunteers to observe and to report their findings. Your observing schedule can be very flexible and, of course, it's all done during the day. No holiday or weekend work.

Interested?? Contact Barb Wysocki at bwyssocki16@gmail.com or League member Tina Gunsalus at ckg@gunsalus.net.

CHARTER SCHOOL UPDATE POSITION GROUP TO MEET OCT. 16

Our local committee on Charter School Position Update will begin meeting on Thursday, October 16. The local committee, consisting of Theresa Michelson and Sue Phillips, co-chairs, and Lillian Katz, Jo Kibbee, Pat Meller, Peggy Patten, and Susan Taylor, will meet to review materials forwarded by the state League. Those materials can be found at <http://www.lwvil.org/charter-schools.html>. Our November 18 meeting will allow all League members to express their opinions.

In 2001, the LWVIL adopted a position on Charter Schools. Since the original position was adopted there have been many new developments including the creation of the state Commission on Charter schools, the arrival of virtual charters, the rapid increase in the number of charter campuses in Illinois and the existence of numerous studies examining the effects of charter schools. In light of these developments, delegates to the 2013 LWVIL state convention approved updating the Charter Schools Position during the 2013-2015 biennium.

At the state level, the charter schools position update committee has been researching, creating, and debating questions addressing a variety of issues regarding charter schools--ranging from Authorization to Zero tolerance discipline, with consideration for policies which might apply to all public schools, including charters.

Anyone else is interested in being on the committee **must** be able to attend the first meeting at 9 a.m. on October 16 at 2013 Silver Ct W, Urbana. If you have questions or would like more information, contact Theresa at 344-4078 or thmichelson@gmail.com.

OCTOBER 2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CANDIDATE FORUM

WHEN: Wednesday, October 8
TIME: 7 p.m. County Board Dist. 6
8 p.m. 103rd State Rep.
WHERE: Champaign City Building

ERA MEETING — AAUW/LWVCC

WHEN: Tuesday, October 14
TIME: 6-8 p.m.
WHERE: Pizza M/Cafeteria & Co.

CANDIDATE DEBATE

WHEN: Thursday, October 16
TIME: 7 p.m.
WHERE: Campbell Hall,
300 N. Goodwin, Urbana
RACE: 13th Congressional District

CHARTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WHEN: Thursday, October 16
TIME: 9 a.m.
WHERE: 2013 Silver Ct. W. Urbana

LWVCC GENERAL MEETING

WHEN: Tuesday, October 21
TIME: 7 p.m. @ Champaign Library
WHEN: Thursday, October 23
TIME: Noon @ Clark-Lindsey Village
TOPIC: *Changing the Illinois Legislature by
Changing the Illinois Constitution: Limitations
and Frustrations*

LWVCC BOARD MEETING

WHEN: Tuesday, October 28
TIME: 9 a.m.
WHERE: Atlanta Bread Co.

League of Women Voters
of Champaign County
P O Box 201
Urbana, IL 61803-0201

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 208



VOTER BEGINS MOVE TOWARD E-NEWSLETTER

We hope you have enjoyed receiving access to the **Voter** newsletter electronically before your paper copy arrives. This month President Barb Wysocki sent an e-mail with a link you could click to view the newsletter online. For now, each of our newsletter subscribers will also receive a paper copy.

Next month you will again receive an e-mail with a link to the online newsletter. We will also include the newsletter as a PDF attachment to the e-mail for those of you who prefer to read it that way. In the future, we will also provide the option to remove your name from the paper newsletter mailing list so you will no longer receive the paper copy.

If you would rather not receive the newsletter via e-mail, please contact Margaret Olson at olson@shout.net. If you have any questions or comments about this process, please feel free to contact our webmaster, Corrie Proksa, at webmaster@lww-champaigncounty.org.

The Voter, October 2014, Volume 70, No 2
Published monthly except July and August by
The League of Women Voters of Champaign County, IL
PO Box 201, Urbana, IL 61803-0201



Find us on Facebook!
League of Women Voters of Champaign County

Check our website for updates:
www.lwwchampaigncounty.org