



# League Links

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters  
of the Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect, Buffalo Grove Area  
Including Prospect Heights, Wheeling and Elk Grove Village, Illinois

We are online at: <http://www.lwvah.org/>

May 2012

Volume 57, Issue 10

## Celebrating 55 years of community service

Our Mission Statement/Purpose: The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



## ACTIVITY CALENDAR



Date	Time	Event
Monday, May 7	9:30 AM – 1 PM	Annual Meeting & Luncheon of LWV CC with key note speaker Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County Board President. At University Center, 525 S. State St., Chicago, 60605.
Monday, May 7	8 PM	Village Arlington Heights Board Meeting. Good Neighbors Campaign will attend en masse.
Thursday, May 17	6:30 PM Potluck, 7:30 Meeting	Annual Meeting – Potluck Salad Supper. Arlington Heights Historical Society, 110 West Fremont, 60004.
Tuesday, May 22	7 PM	New Board meets. At Pat Lindner's. Members welcomed to attend.
June 8-12	Time	LWVUS Convention in Washington, D.C. "Power the Vote: Imagine, Commit, Act." Visit <a href="http://www.lwvus.org">www.lwvus.org</a>
Sunday, July 8		Frontier Days - Save the date to volunteer on behalf of our League
July		Board meeting. Report from LWVUS National Convention. What it means to us?
Sunday, late August		LWV AH-MP-BG Picnic. Details to be announced.

The League of Women Voters gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the Horner Group in providing all the printing, postage and mailing services for our bulletins.



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# A Message from The LWVUS President

Over the last two years, the League has been seeing too many common purposes across our many states, such as fighting against voter suppression, attacks on environmental protections, underfunding of important social programs and attacks on women's health. That these efforts are well-funded and organized is undeniable.

Whether it is Stand Your Ground laws, anti-immigration legislation or voter ID, the role of special interest money in government at all levels is becoming more and more pervasive. However connecting the dots of influence peddling is not easy. The average voters cast their ballots amidst a barrage of negative, misleading and even false campaign ads paid for by innocuous sounding groups that obscure the true sources of their funding. The Center for Public Integrity recently published a report rating state legislation regarding ethics in government and transparency. The picture is not pretty.

But if there is a silver lining to this legislative cloud, it is that we are organized, too. Based on the visibility and media attention that we get for our efforts, our voice, whether raised against bad bills in the state houses or raised to educate and inform voters, is being heard. And, that voice represents many more voices than just those of our members.

I come away energized and in awe of the work that Leagues are doing in all 50 states. While the fight is far from over on voter suppression [and other extremist legislation], the hard work our Leagues have been doing has resulted in more success than failure. [See *News from LWVUS* in this and past bulletins] Proponents of voter ID and proof of citizenship [etc] are discovering that we in League won't give up because we know that our course of inclusion and participation is the only way forward. We are in League to promote full participation in our democracy.

There couldn't be a better time to promote the value of belonging to League. Seeing the League work in all 50 states and in so many communities reinforces the fact that being in League makes us all smarter and more powerful because together we are powering our voices to *Power the Vote*.

Keep up the good work and don't forget to ask others to join us and to support us.

Always in League, Elisabeth McNamara

## LWVAH BOARD MEMBERS 2011 - 2012

<u>Position/Portfolio</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
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Voter Service	Judith Royal	847-259-5838	cjroyal@comcast.net
	Tabitha Long	847-222-9560	tabithahlong@gmail.com

## OFF-BOARD LEADERS

Finance, Phonathon	<b>VACANT</b>		
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Budget Committee Chair	Robin LaBedz	847-392-6195	rplabedz@sbcglobal.net
By-Laws Committee Chair	Jean Vanderlinde	847-537-6346	hjvdl@mc.net
Technology Geek	Connie Weissman	847-870-7719	Connie_Weissman@rush.edu



## Party and Participate At Our Annual Meeting And Salad Supper, Thursday, May 17

### At Annual Meeting, **You Make League**

Your time to make League the grassroots group we claim it is.

Your comments form the direction and tenor of League.

Your commitment to participate in League's work determines whether our League continues to "MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK" in these critical times.

AH Historical Society Dinner 6:30 pm, Annual Meeting 7:30 pm

Come, join your fellow members. Catch up on everyone's activities.

Just bring a Salad (homemade or from your favorite deli).

There is no fee. Dessert will be provided.

REMINDER: Dues of \$75 are due at the Annual Meeting.

**Form Ideas. Come and Speak. Choose and Commit.**

*Make Your League Continue to Count for Democracy's Future*



### PRIVATIZATION STUDY

We reached a strong consensus on the LWVUS Privatization Study at our April meeting. Many members made this possible. The topic was timely and, while some of us were sometimes shocked at where the push for privatization had been taken, the issues were fascinating. Many thanks to our "chat" hostesses for opening their homes for the four Privatization Study discussions. Thanks for all who diligently read the background study papers and contributed their thoughts and experience on the various issues at both the chats and the consensus meeting. The growth in understanding and the resulting consensus is YOUR success. Our League's consensus was sent to LWVUS and the LWVUS final position is expected sometime this summer.

### Oppose Gambling Expansion and Slots at Arlington Park



Governor Pat Quinn recently said gambling expansion, including slot machines at horse racing tracks, should not become a political distraction in the remaining few weeks of the General Assembly session, because Medicaid and pension stabilization are the highest priorities we can possibly focus on. Governor Quinn has also repeatedly said that he opposes slot machines at racetracks.

Some politicians and gambling interests are turning up the heat to pass a massive gambling expansion bill.

**SB 1849 is on postponed consideration and could be called at any time.**

#### Please make these contacts promptly:

Call your State Representative and Senator. Ask them to vote NO on SB 1849 and any other gambling expansion bills (217-782-2000 capitol switchboard or go to [www.ilga.gov/](http://www.ilga.gov/) for more specific contact information).

Call Governor Quinn (800-642-3112, 217-782-0244, or 312-814-2121). Tell him you are from Arlington Heights and thank him for standing firm against slot machines at racetracks. Also, ask him to oppose any gambling expansion bills.

Any questions, contact Nancy Duel at 847-259-3793 or [nduel@aol.com](mailto:nduel@aol.com). Thank you.



## Take Action on Gun Violence Prevention

Four firearm-related bills of interest to League have come before the Illinois General Assembly this session.

### HB 5745 CONCEALED CARRY – FIREARMS, 36 co-sponsors [LWVIL OPPOSE]

In this bill, an applicant with necessary qualifications may be issued a state license to carry a handgun, loaded or unloaded, concealed or openly, on their person or in their vehicle. [There's a list of prohibited locations.] Because the bill would preempt home rule, it requires a supermajority vote of 71 in the House.

According to Section 70, if a community college, college, or university prohibits the carrying of firearms on its campus, it will be civilly liable for any criminal injury enacted upon a "concealed carry" permit-holder that is denied their handgun.

### HB 5649 CONCEALED CARRY - STUN GUNS & TASERS [NO LWVIL POSITION ON TASERS]

This bill came up unexpectedly, with a synopsis that's similar to that of HB 5745. Since LWVIL doesn't presently mention stun guns and tasers among its positions on Gun Violence Prevention, CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR ABOUT THIS BILL AS AN INDIVIDUAL RATHER THAN AS A LEAGUE MEMBER. AS YET, NO FORMAL LWVIL STATEMENT OF POSITION IS KNOWN. PERHAPS A STUDY ON THIS TOPIC BY OUR LEAGUE WOULD BE IN ORDER-- TO WORK TOWARD A POSITION STATEWIDE?

### HB 5831 HANDGUN REGISTRATION [LWVIL SUPPORT]

This bill would prohibit any Illinoisan from carrying, possessing, and transferring ownership of a handgun without a certificate of handgun registration. Any registered handgun that is lost, stolen, or destroyed would be reported to local law enforcement within 72 hours of becoming aware of the loss. Similar to an automobile title that keeps close tabs on ownership, handgun registration would greatly assist law enforcement in tracking individuals if ever criminal activity should occur.

### HB 5167 AMMUNITION SALES TAX [LWVIL SUPPORT]

In this bill, a 2% surcharge on firearm ammunition would be instituted. This revenue would fund grants for Trauma Centers to provide greatly needed emergency care in high crime areas.

*By Fay Michaelis*

## Abolishment of the Death Penalty – One Year Later

One year after Illinois abolished the death penalty, violent crime rates have not been seen to escalate, as some predictors said they would.

ADVOCATES FOR THE DEATH PENALTY WISH TO HAVE THIS LAW REPEALED AND STAND READY TO WORK TOWARD THAT END. MAKE IT A POINT TO LEARN WHICH POSITION ON THE DEATH PENALTY IS HELD BY YOUR CANDIDATE FOR ANY STATE OFFICE BEFORE VOTING!

Since the abolition, monies in the Illinois' Capital Litigation Trust Fund that remained unspent have been reallocated for training law enforcement personnel and for supportive services for families of murder victims. The payoff on these investments-- a reduction in future crimes and the reconstruction of lives damaged by past crimes.

Illinois law demands that the majority of murderers get a mandatory life sentence without parole. What abolishment of the death penalty has done is take away any possibility that any person, not deserving of the ultimate punishment, will be wrongly executed in our names.

*By Fay Michaelis, Information source: Article by Charles W. Hoffman in Chicago Sun-Times on March 5, 2012*

## Connecticut Abolishes the Death Penalty

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, Governor Dannel P. Malloy signed legislation that abolishes the death penalty in Connecticut, making Connecticut the 5th state in 5 years to end the death penalty and the 17th state overall to be death penalty free. . Maryland may be next. Kansas and Montana are discussing it. California will probably have a public referendum in November. For those of us in Illinois, we know how hard the fight for abolition is, and we full-heartedly congratulate Connecticut on its victory.



## MAJOR FOCUS: The Disclose Act

### LWVUS Creates Campaign Finance Task Force

At the Federal level, this election season has seen a new low in messaging and a new high in spending by so-called independent groups. League has been pushing for various reforms to campaign financing for decades. Following *Citizens United*, one of the remaining avenues of reform is disclosure of the sources of that spending as required in **the Disclose Act**. The League supports this Act, as do an overwhelming number of voters. Corporations, unions and individuals who spend money in elections must be required to stand by their ads and allow voters to know who is trying to influence their vote.

The League is taking a strong stand on money in politics. Support for DISCLOSE, petitioning the White House for a response on the Federal Election Commission and demanding elected officials let the sun shine in at all levels of government and elections is a good start. The LWVUS Board created a Campaign Finance Task Force. The Task Force will serve as a resource to the LWVUS Board and will provide information and input on campaign finance issues, including short and long term strategies for reform. In the short term, the Task Force will be researching and providing information to members on the proposed constitutional amendments that have been introduced in the U.S. Congress.

### The DISCLOSE Act Urgent Legislation Goal

The overwhelming effect of unlimited amounts of secret money used on unsigned campaign ads has already been unmistakably proven in the Republican primary races. **This effect will be magnified in local Congressional races where voters usually have low information levels on their Congresspersons.**



This essential legislation will require financial disclosure for all campaign advertising. No longer will trade associations, corporations and wealthy individuals be able to make secret contributions to run election ads. Our volunteer national Lobby Corps is working both the Senate and the House on the bill. We made a statement to the Senate Rules Committee. You can expect a series of up-to-the-minute action alerts.



### What You Can DO

***Engage in the League's Money in Elections reform campaign.***

Contact **Sen. Durbin**: <http://durbin.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/footer-contact?p=contact>

**Sen. Kirk**: <http://www.kirk.senate.gov/?p=contact> **Rep. Dold** <https://dold.house.gov/contact-me>

Urge them to support the DISCLOSE Act. Tell them, the public has a right to know who is purchasing these ads to influence an election. Candidates must put their name on their ads; supporters should do the same.

Write a letter-to-the-editor of your local papers and call attention to the problems of secret money in campaigns. Say voters deserve to know where the money is coming from. Meet with your federal representatives or their staffs in the district offices.

***Participate in the "Stations: Stand by Your Ad" campaign.***

LWVUS is encouraging Leagues to participate in this project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania that identifies ways TV and radio stations can reduce the number of erroneous campaign ads run by third party organizations. A description of the campaign and how Leagues and others can get involved is at [www.lwv.org/files/StationsStandbyYourAdFactSheet.pdf](http://www.lwv.org/files/StationsStandbyYourAdFactSheet.pdf)

### Memo from LWVUS President Elisabeth McNamara

Big money in elections – and the related avalanche of questionable and negative campaign ads – will be an inescapable reality in election year 2012. But the League is not sitting back quietly while that happens! There is much to be done, and I encourage everyone to make "money in elections" an important part of our *Power the Vote* efforts this year. Thanks for all you do!

## ADVOCACY

**It's hard to keep up on current events.**

**We rarely have time to check on issues we are worried about.**

**Just look at the wide variety of critical issues the LWVUS has been busy working on...on our behalf!**

### League Praises Decision to Continue to Put People Before Polluters

League of Women Voters national President, Elisabeth MacNamara issued the following statement regarding the Obama Administration's new rules regulating carbon emissions for future power plants. "EPA's action on new fossil-fuel power plants is a necessary and long-delayed first step in controlling the carbon pollution that is harming our health," she said.

"EPA and the Administration deserve credit for taking this important step. Carbon pollution's biggest contributor comes from power plants in the United States," added MacNamara. This rule ensures that there is a uniform national limit on the amount of carbon emissions that new power plants will emit, and falls in line with steps that states across the U.S. and industry officials are already working to implement.

"Today the EPA took an historic step towards protecting our children and the environment," MacNamara said. "As with the Cross State Air Regulations and the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, the Obama Administration continues to show their commitment to put people before polluters. The League looks forward to encouraging the public to participate by adding their comments on this historic standard, and to the Administration issuing additional standards for existing dirty coal plants in the future," concluded MacNamara.

### What You Can Do



#### Support EPA's Proposal to Limit Industrial Carbon Pollution Add Your Own "Public Comment" at LWVUS Action Page

The EPA has taken an important first step by proposing a new standard to limit carbon pollution from new power plants. The agency is now receiving public comments on the proposal and we must add our voice in support. You can bet that corporate polluters are already doing everything they can to block these important health protections. We must counter with many trusted League voices.

Send a powerful message to let the EPA know you want them to support people not polluters. . Go to LWVUS Action Page at [http://participate.lwv.org/p/dia/action/public/?action\\_KEY=5870](http://participate.lwv.org/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=5870)



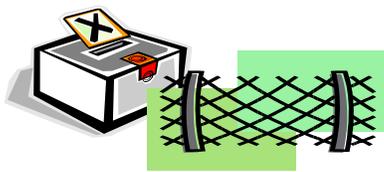
### Affordable Care Act, Two Years Later

This month was the second anniversary of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Already to millions of Americans, this historic law has made a difference to their health and in their lives. Now is the time to stop, celebrate and take note of the advances that have already taken place and those yet to come in the next few years.

On Monday March 26, the U.S. Supreme Court heard three days of oral arguments on various legal challenges to the ACA and there are congressional attempts to destructively amend the ACA and others to defund the law. The League joined a broad coalition of healthcare, education and child welfare organizations in filing an [amicus](#) brief on the Affordable Care Act. For now, it is important to focus on the facts, and how the ACA has already helped the lives of so many Americans.

### What You Can Do

**Learn more** about the Affordable Care Act and what it has done.  
See [www.healthcareandyou.org](http://www.healthcareandyou.org) or [www.healthcare.gov/mycare](http://www.healthcare.gov/mycare).



## Congress, please, take a good look at anti-voter laws

April 17, 2012 | Statement by Elisabeth MacNamara

This morning the House Committee on the Judiciary will hold a hearing examining the Department of Justice's (DOJ) record on voting rights enforcement. Protecting voters' rights is at the core of what the League of Women Voters does so we have to ask:

Why is the Judiciary committee holding this hearing rather than taking on the anti-voter laws that were hastily passed in so many states around the country?

Why aren't our elected officials looking to see what is behind these state laws that could make it harder for millions of eligible voters to participate in Election 2012?

These anti-voter laws are cloaked as an attempt to bring integrity to our elections systems yet many are now seeing them for what they really are: an assault on voters and one of the greatest self-inflicted threats to our democracy in our lifetimes. The new laws threaten to silence the voices of those least heard and rarely listened to in this country – the poor, the elderly, racial and ethnic minorities, the young and persons with disabilities. Some progress to blunt the impact of these requirements has been made in the past few months in South Carolina and Texas. Leagues in both states have intervened in the legal proceedings to protect voters although the final outcome may not be known for a few months. A court in Wisconsin has ordered a permanent injunction against their photo ID law in a case brought by the Wisconsin state League. And just yesterday, the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit struck down Arizona's proof-of-citizenship requirement. Once again, the League was involved in that case as well.

While Congress sits on its hands, the League is continuing to do what it can to see that voter suppression laws will be struck down in each and every state and come November every eligible citizen will be able to exercise their right to vote and have their vote counted without additional, unnecessary barriers.

### What You Can Do

If the states are unable or unwilling to protect the rights of every eligible citizen to vote, the League believes the federal government must step in to ensure these rights are protected.

**Contact Sen. Durbin:** <http://durbin.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/footer-contact?p=contact>  
**Sen. Kirk:** <http://www.kirk.senate.gov/?p=contact>     **Rep. Dold** <https://dold.house.gov/contact-me>

Urge them to join Senator Nelson of Florida in asking the Justice Department to investigate whether these new suppressive voting laws were passed as part of a concerted effort to discourage millions of people from voting in the 2012 presidential election.

Also, read LWVUS President McNamara's Hearing Statement for more facts and figures on the impact of these laws; go to <http://www.lwv.org/content/statement-elisabeth-macnamara-president-lwvus-forum-entitled-excluded-democracy-impact>

## ALEC Backs Down, but the League Must Stand Our Ground

April 18, 2012 | by Elisabeth MacNamara



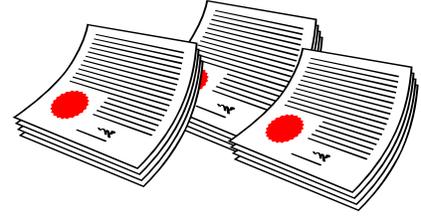
The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) made news this week when they **announced** that they were discontinuing their Public Safety and Elections Task Force. This Task Force was responsible for the promotion of 'model' voter identification and stand-your-ground legislation that has recently been in the news. This announcement came after many organizations put pressure on corporations to withdraw their support from ALEC.

This retreat by ALEC is an important step for organizations like the League that have worked so hard to protect voting rights and protect the public interest in many other areas. We must still remain vigilant against [special interest influence on our government and democracy](#) which has too often been hidden from the public.

The League always encourages voters to stand their ground. Special interests cannot prevail when confronted by an informed and engaged electorate. In order to do this, Leagues across the country will continue to work hard registering and educating voters, while also seeking to improve our government and elections. Can we count on you to stand your ground?

## Repealing ALEC's Successes... Hard Work Ahead for League

By Cathy Duoba



It seems everyone is talking about ALEC now, but League has been fighting voter suppression efforts in states like Florida and Ohio since the 2000 election. LWVUS and various state Leagues went into full battle stations stance with the introduction of ALEC-promoted voter suppression, anti-immigration, and anti-women's healthcare bills after the 2010 elections. Long wearying years of trying to alert citizens and courts to these dangers to democracy are finally bearing some fruit in the courts and some states (see *News from LWVUS* in current and past bulletins).

ALEC says it is withdrawing from some right-wing actions, but they leave a long and wide trail of successes behind them...and much work still lies ahead for both LWVUS and many state Leagues to get these laws repealed in states where ALEC-backed legislators still pack legislatures. Here in Illinois, we have been lucky, but these weary Leagues need our support.



## LWVUS on ELECTIONS

### LWVUS Request to Release Bundlers Information

League and eight other government watchdog organizations asked presidential candidates to reveal more details about fundraisers for their presidential campaigns who "bundle" contributions in amounts greatly exceeding what they're permitted to contribute on their own. The request for more transparency comes in the midst of an election season during which the candidates, party committees and outside groups are expected to spend more than ever before.

Bundlers, who are often corporate leaders, lobbyists or Wall Street executives, can funnel hundreds of thousands of dollars, potentially even millions, to a campaign, despite the fact that individually they can give only \$2,500 to a candidate for the primary season and the same for the general election. Despite the tremendous influence these individuals can have in a campaign -- and in an administration after the election -- the law requires only that campaigns disclose the names of bundlers who are registered lobbyists.

While the Obama campaign has voluntarily disclosed the names of its bundlers and a general range of how much each has raised, it would be far more meaningful if all candidates identified precise, cumulative amounts for all their bundlers.

## Other LWVUS Happenings

### White House Invites League to STOCK Act Signing

LWVUS Executive Director Nancy Tate stood with others around President Obama as he signed the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge (STOCK) Act into law. The STOCK Act makes it illegal for Members of Congress to invest or trade stocks based on nonpublic information they acquire on Capitol Hill.



### League Opposed Ryan Budget Plan

LWVUS joined with 49 other concerned organizations in urging House Representatives to reject the Ryan budget plan, which makes deep cuts in Medicare, Medicaid, education and other vital programs that serve low-income families, children, individuals with disabilities, the jobless and the uninsured, while drastically lowering tax rates to favor wealthy Americans. The Ryan budget plan passed the House by a vote of 228-191.

## LWVCC and Redistricting

The process for drawing new district maps for Cook County Commissioner Districts is underway. The 17 new Commissioner district boundaries will be in effect for the next 10 years. The Cook County Board's Redistricting Committee has outlined a plan for public hearings, as well as a process for the public to submit maps. Our regional hearing was April 24th at Oakton Community College.

## LWVIL Issues Activity

On March 30th, the Illinois federal district court for the Southern District of Illinois ruled that the total ban on carrying concealed handguns in Illinois is constitutional under the Second Amendment. In the case *Shepard vs. Madigan*, the court stated that "*the plaintiff's claim that the provisions of the State of Illinois' Unlawful Use of a Handgun and Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Handgun statutes do not violate the Second Amendment to the US Constitution because the bearing of a firearm outside the home is not a core right protected by the Second Amendment.*" The ruling is expected to be appealed by concealed carry proponents.

The spring legislative session is well under way and our Issue Specialists have been busy, tracking the various bills that address our public policy agenda. There is still time to contact your legislators.

### Action Alert

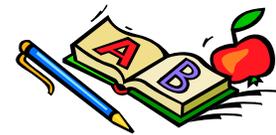
**See earlier article for alerts on Gun Violence.**

March 1, 2012: **Reproductive Health Care.** The Illinois House is considering two bills that threaten women's health care. Don't let it happen in Illinois! Ask Your State Representative to **VOTE NO** on **BOTH HB 4085 - Ultrasound Mandate AND HB 4117 Regulation of Health Centers Providing Abortion Care.**

## Lake Michigan League Concurrence

**Heads Up:** The Lake Michigan League of Women Voters (an inter-league organization) will be sending information to all League presidents in the state asking for concurrence with a position on the Great Lakes. This is part of an inter-state effort to maximize our advocacy efforts on Lake Michigan and Great Lakes issues. For further information contact [issues@lwvil.org](mailto:issues@lwvil.org)

## LWVUS Publishes Education Consensus Position



The LWVUS now has a position on the Federal Role in Public Education! The LWVUS Board approved a new Education position at its March 2012 meeting. The position is based on responses received from the 377 Leagues across the country that participated in the Education Study.

The position states that "the League of Women Voters believes that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12. A quality public education is essential for a strong, viable and sustainable democratic society and is a civil right."

## Infographic Shows Impact of Voter Suppression Laws

Craigslist founder Craig Newmark has published an infographic illustrating the impact of U.S. voting restriction laws, on his craigconnects website. The infographic explores the extensive state actions to limit opportunities for Americans to vote. It provides an overview of the flood of voter suppression laws that the League has been fighting and the negative impact that those laws could have on millions of citizens.

**LWVUS provided information and feedback to Newmark.**



## NEWS FROM LWVUS

See other articles on advocacy and election issues

### **Elections: Big Wins for Voting Rights!**

On April 16, the **Wisconsin** Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal to a lower court's ruling on LWVWI's lawsuit that successfully blocked the state's new voter ID law without the Court of Appeals hearing the case first. This will likely mean Wisconsinites won't have to show identification when they vote in the recall elections.

The April 17 landmark 9-2 decision by the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in the case *Gonzalez v. Arizona*, ruling **Arizona's** Proof-of-Citizenship requirement violates the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), is a huge win for voting rights. At stake was Arizona's Proposition 200 which required voters to produce proof-of-citizenship when registering to vote using the federal mail-in registration form. The League was a plaintiff in the case.

LWV of **Pennsylvania** and partners announced they are bringing suit to challenge the state's new voter photo ID law. If implemented, the new barrier would disenfranchise thousands of Pennsylvania voters this year, including League members. "A law that erodes the cherished right to vote of one person impacts everyone's right to vote and must be protected for all," said LWVPA Executive Director Bonita Hoke.

**Protecting Voters:** The League is now actively engaged on the front lines with lawsuits to halt voter suppression laws in three other states: FL, SC, and TX.

### **Elections: Justice Dept. Urges Court to Reject South Carolina's Request for Declaratory Judgment on Photo ID**

The LWV of South Carolina has joined the U.S. Dept. of Justice in fighting the implementation of South Carolina's new photo ID law. This week the DOJ filed papers asking the three-judge panel to reject the state's request for declaratory judgment. In a separate filing, South Carolina told the court it must make a decision in the matter before August 1st to allow enough time to implement the new law for the November elections.

### **Elections: Minnesota's Voter ID Constitutional Amendment Likely on Nov. Ballot**

The Minnesota legislature passed a voter ID constitutional amendment that will likely be brought before the voters in this November's election. LWVMN was deeply involved in the fight to stop the ballot measure and is gearing up to help defeat it at the polls.

### **Voter Registration: Progress in Florida & South Carolina**

Early this month, the US Justice Department objected to new provisions of Florida's election law that place strict regulations on independent voter registration groups and shorten the early voting period. The objection was filed in a pretrial submission in the preclearance lawsuit that the Florida League is involved in. Recent analysis of Florida's voter registration lists show a dramatic drop in newly registered voters since this new law went into effect. South Carolina's voter registration bill was sent back to committee this month. The bill would create massive liabilities associated with voter registration drives administered by independent organizations like the League of Women Voters. By sending the bill back to the Judiciary committee, the House made it less likely that the bill will pass in its current form. The bill is "sleeping" but not yet "dead."

### **Elections: Florida Judges Green-Light Partisan Gerrymanders**

Florida voters suffered a setback this week as judges ruled to allow implementation of both the congressional and reworked state senate redistricting maps, despite repeated challenges by the League and other groups on the grounds the maps violated the new Fair Districts standards in the state.

### **Redistricting: LWVEF Releases Redistricting Report**

LWVEF is pleased to release "Shining a Light: Redistricting Lessons Learned in 2011." This comprehensive white paper highlights the groundbreaking efforts of Leagues and other advocates to promote a more fair and transparent redistricting process, and sheds light on key reform opportunities for improving the process over the next decade. The report also includes helpful practices for local Leagues to consider as they work to influence redistricting at the local level.



- Michael B. Schroeder, D.D.S.
- Kenneth A. Johnson, D.D.S.
- Renee P. Pappas, D.D.S.
- Robert P. DiChristofano, D.D.S.
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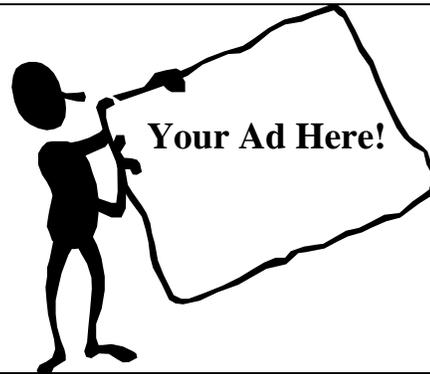
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**See you at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 17**

*In this issue:*

<i>Page 1</i>	Activity Calendar
<i>Page 2</i>	LWVUS President Message
	LWVAH Board Members
<i>Page 3</i>	Annual Meeting
	Privatization Study
	Gambling
<i>Page 4</i>	Gun Violence
	Death Penalty
<i>Page 5</i>	DISCLOSE Act
<i>Page 6-8</i>	Advocacy
<i>Page 9-10</i>	LWVCC
	LWVIL
	LWVUS
<i>Page 11</i>	We love our advertisers!