



League Links

LWV AH-MP-BG Area

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>

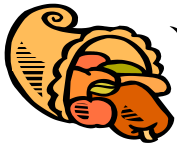
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November 2014

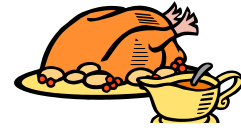
Volume 60, Issue 5

Serving our communities since 1955

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
Saturday, Nov 1		First Day of open enrollment for Affordable Care Act health insurance
Tuesday, Nov 4		General Election
Thursday, Nov 6	11:30 am	Meeting of the Joint Cmte. On Administrative Rules (IL General Assembly) Bilandic Bldg, Chicago Hydraulic Fracking Regulatory Act is #28 on agenda
Tuesday, Nov 11		Veterans' Day
Tuesday, Nov 11	6:30 pm Coffee & cookies 7 pm	Special Meeting on Charter School Study & Update Teacher Presentation & Discussion Connie Weissman's
Friday, Nov 14		Lake Mich. LWV Action on crude oil train explosions Expected Deadline to submit public comment on NTSB proposed safety rules. See link & info at www.lwvlmr.org/take-action.html .
Wed, Nov 19	5-7 pm	Chicago in Focus. Topic: The Riverwalk Extension Michelle Woods, Project Mgr for City of Chicago
Thursday, Nov 20	7 pm Doors open 7:30 pm Program starts	Monthly Program: Campaign Finance Reform Featuring the film "Citizen Koch" Concerned about Climate Change? Fight for CFR!
Tuesday, Nov 25	6:30 pm	Board meeting at Connie Weissman's MEMBERS WELCOME!
Saturday, Mar 7	TBD	LWVIL Annual Issues Briefing SAVE THE DATE Preparing members for General Assembly session University Center Conference, Chicago

Message from the LWVUS President
In the Thick of the Wisconsin Fight
Voting Rights for Everyone



I had the privilege of visiting Wisconsin last weekend to do my part to help protect and educate Wisconsin voters. My trip allowed me to see and learn first-hand, the efforts of Wisconsin League members on behalf of voters across the state.

Since 2011, Wisconsin has been one of the battlegrounds for those fighting to protect voting rights. In the statehouse and the courthouse, the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin has been on the frontlines. Thanks to Wisconsin League and our coalition partner's persistence in the Courts, no voter in Wisconsin has been disenfranchised by the new law, as implementation of the requirement has been staved off. However, the recent court decisions [of the 7th Circuit Appeals Court upholding photo ID, blocked by the Supreme Court since this letter was written on Oct 9] have made it necessary for the Wisconsin League to continue to fight for voters and to help eligible voters get registered and obtain the photo ID required.

This year, League members in Wisconsin are educating voters through the media, online resources like VOTE411.org, and written materials. While there is still some hope that Wisconsin voters will be allowed to exercise their most fundamental right without showing photo ID, the League is taking no chances. And again on Election Day 2014, League volunteers will be monitoring the polls to assist voters and gather information to assist election officials. [see below]

The Wisconsin League and all Leagues are well placed to succeed in the important mission of Making Democracy Work. For nearly 100 years, the League has worked on all fronts to enshrine voting rights, including preventing laws limiting access to the polls while also advocating for laws to make our elections fair, free and accessible. The League also works to ensure voters are prepared to overcome any barriers they may face when exercising their right to vote. League members understand how important every election is and just how critical the 2014 contest is.

In League, Elisabeth MacNamara

Editor's Addition: LWV WI has had to officially request the WI Attorney General "to investigate felony violations of Wisconsin election law that appear to have been committed by the Wisconsin Poll Watchers Militia, a self-described militia group who announced their plan to 'confront' voters at the polls who signed a petition to recall Governor Scott Walker in 2012 and who may have outstanding violations of the law on their records."



LWV AH-MP-BG BOARD MEMBERS 2014-2015

<u>Position/Portfolio</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
President	VACANT		
Vice-President	VACANT		
Secretary	Judith O. Royal		
Treasurer/League Geek	Connie Weissman		
Program	VACANT		
Director/Voter Service	Judith O. Royal		
Director/League Links Editor	Cathy Duoba		
Director/Frontier Days	Rosemary Krizan		

OFF-BOARD LEADERS

Membership/Finance	Pat Lindner		
Membership/Finance	Pat Lind		
Publicity	Shannon Silverman		
Facebook	Heidi Graham		
Action Chair	VACANT		

Thursday, November 20th Program

MONEY IN POLITICS

Featuring the film “CITIZEN KOCH”

Background material at end of bulletin

The money spent on this year’s mid-term elections is all over the news. Hundreds of millions spent on Senate races, with control of the Senate at stake. So this month’s program for members and the public will focus on the effects on our political process of the Supreme Court decisions in the *Citizens United* (corporate contributions allowed) and this April’s *McCutcheon* (no more limits on individual contributions) cases.

The film *Citizen Koch* pre-dates the *McCutcheon* decision and focuses on corporate spending on elections, including the citizen recall campaign against Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker. From the *Washington Post* review: “The Oscar-nominated filmmakers Carl Deal and Tia Lessin (“Trouble the Water”) go out of their way to appear nonpartisan. Although several people interviewed in the film are on the left end of the political spectrum, the movie is largely structured around the efforts of Republicans — not Democrats — to raise the alarm about unchecked corporate electioneering.”

The film itself has a very **controversial back-story**. From the *Rotten Tomatoes* movie review website: “Last year, public television officials pulled \$150,000 in funds committed to the documentary and cancelled plans for the film’s broadcast premiere, in fear of losing the financial backing of major PBS donor David Koch, the ultra-conservative billionaire industrialist and WGBH and WNET trustee (per Jane Mayer in *The New Yorker*). In this stunning turn of events, CITIZEN KOCH was effectively censored from the public airwaves. After completing one of the most successful crowdfunding campaigns of all time to make up for the lost production funds, CITIZEN KOCH hit the theaters [last September].”

The media is making the general public aware of the millions being spent in battleground states. By mid-November, everyone will see the results of this spending, making clear the need for campaign finance reform.

This timely topic will appeal to all concerned citizens!

Sign-in sheets show we had more guests than members attend last September.

Do it again, do your friends and contacts a favor --

Invite them to come watch Thursday Nov. 20th.



October Board Meeting Guest

Help with Our Efforts to Grow Our Membership

By Cathy Duoba

As some of you already know, after years of holding steady in mid-thirties, our membership has dropped under 30 members. Most members were sorry to leave us; reasons varied (deaths, illnesses, and relocations).

Recognizing that we needed new ideas in order to meet this challenge, the Board decided to join a program instituted several years ago by LWVUS to help Leagues suffering membership decline. The Membership and Leadership Development Program has prepared a series of tools and resources needed to support a League’s efforts to recruit and retain members and to develop those new members into active Leaders. A local League leader/coach is assigned to a League that joins the program

Our coach is Peggy Kell, Oak Park-River Forest LWV co-pres., who attended our Board meeting to begin the “getting to know you.” We discussed problems with members getting older. She asked about past and future monthly programs & voter service activities and how they can attract potential members. She seemed impressed. She took a copy of our bulletin. Pat Lind & Pat Lindner (membership co-chairs) are our contacts.

PLEASE Call them with IDEAS – It’s all hands on deck for this effort!

Reaching Out to Current & Potential Members

If you have not visited our Facebook page, you are really missing out. Heidi Graham is doing a bang-up job getting out League’s information on voting and issues and making League activities appealing to viewers. No excuses now, if I can do it, so can you. Once you go, you will be both impressed and eager to revisit.

<https://www.facebook.com/TheLeagueOfWomenVotersArlingtonHeights>

And don’t forget our website at lwwah.org

By Cathy Duoba



Making Democracy Work By Serving the Voters of the AH-MP-BG Area Districts 54 & 57 Candidate Forum

By Judith Royal

Candidates running for IL House District 54, Rep. Tom Morrison and Laddi Singh participated in our League's candidate forum at AH Village Hall on Saturday, October 11. They answered 19 questions written by audience members. When our candidate forum includes several races, candidates for each race have time for only 8-10 questions plus their opening and closing statements.

Be sure to watch the forum on local access TV or YouTube. For TV viewers in Arlington Heights: Watch Comcast Channel 17 and WOW Channel 6: 5 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays and at noon on Saturdays & Sundays until Nov. 4. Here is the YouTube link: www.lwv.on-the-web.tv

Because IL State Rep. of District 57 Elaine Nekritz had a commitment, she did not participate. Bill Grossi, the other candidate returned signed rules well after the deadline for commitment. So it was too late to consider rescheduling. However, consistent with the rules, Rep. Nekritz sent her representative to make her two-minute statement. Mr. Grossi delivered a two-minute statement of his own.

Now Voter Services is preparing for the spring 2015 elections: Village trustees, school boards, library trustees, and park board commissioners. Let's hope there are challengers. Without them there won't be a candidate forum, and citizens will be deprived of the opportunity to hear from those who want to be trusted in public office when they discuss issues facing our community.

Many thanks to League members—Nancy Duel, Heidi Graham, Pat Lindner, Shannon Silverman, Edith Aucher (of LWVIL)—and Carl Royal for working at our candidate forum on Saturday, October 11, at the Village Hall. A special word of appreciation for Kevin of Lorelle Communications, Inc. for videotaping and setting up YouTube.

**And Kudos to Judith Royal
Along with our gratitude for another Candidate Forum so well done.**

LWV Lake Michigan Region: Clean Water Act

The LWV Lake Michigan urges you to educate yourself and others to take action on this critical debate about rules clarification on the historic Clean Water Act, which the League of Women Voters helped to pass.

LWV LMR have posted needed details and suggested comments, which have been approved by LWVUS, at <http://www.lwvlmr.org/take-action.html>. **The public participation period is expected to end November 14th.**

Concerned about Climate Change?

Better Get Active on Campaign Finance Reform

Campaign finance deregulation: Barrier to climate change efforts

Fossil-fuel & anti-EPA ads form a massive chunk of political ads in battleground states: In Colorado, 12,592 such ads; Alaska, 17,715; West Virginia, 17,702 and Kentucky 17,825 (87% pro-coal); and Michigan, 16,432 – a total of 146,505 across the U.S. (NY Times).

Just one example: How \$450,000, Koch Bros. & \$771,000, Big Oil goes to work to put one buddy ahead.

Colorado TV ad: Senate candidate Cory Gardiner, at a wind farm, tells Coloradans he supports clean energy. (Gardner has now pulled ahead in the polls) Nextgenclimate.org/co: "Congressman Gardner's career has been spent fighting clean energy development, which is why he is so heavily supported by the Koch brothers and the oil and gas industry—the largest source of Gardner's campaign cash..."

"Gardner has voted five times to protect billions of dollars in tax breaks for Big Oil. Additionally, Gardner has spent his time in Congress sponsoring measures which would have held taxpayers, not polluters, responsible for cleaning up toxic waste sites; co-sponsored a bill that would allow power plants to continue spewing unlimited pollution into the air; and voted repeatedly against energy efficiency standards that would have saved the country more than \$12.5 billion and removed the equivalent of 17 million cars worth of pollution each year."





New Face, Old Ties

CEDA NW becomes Northwest Compass, Inc.

By Pat Lindner & Cathy Duoba

Members know of our annual food drive at the Jan/Feb meetings for CEDA NW, but why?

Our ties to the entity go back to the late '60s when League helped start the private, non-profit Northwest Opportunity Center as part of Pres. Johnson's Office of Economic Opportunities (OEO). Leaguers Rena Trevor and Lou Walton served on its board; other members were volunteers. When OEO became CEDA, the Center joined the CEDA Cook Co. network as CEDA NW, a government agency with federal & private funding.

The move from federal agency back to private community-based group has been coming for years. When policies/funding tightened up under the Bush Administration, CEDA NW staff found it harder to do what the local board thought necessary to fulfill its mission. Getting permission was time-consuming and sometimes impossible. Though policies improved under Pres. Obama, budget cuts grew. The desire for more freedom had taken hold; last summer the split became final. (*Daily Herald*: [Northwest Compass organization starts anew](#))

Fresh start, but mostly doing the 'Same Old'

Northwest Compass (NC) will still "provide emergency services, education, and empowerment...for those who are vulnerable or in crisis," including food, child care, financial counseling, & job programs. NC has qualified to continue some federal programs like WIC and IHEAP (energy assistance), and NC still runs a partially subsidized housing development and helps homeowners with mortgage issues and problems.

Volunteer Help Needed More Than Ever

The move has come at a cost: NC lost a quarter of its federal funding. The staff has been down-sized to 11 (from 23). So volunteers have become essential to continuing its mission.

After 40+ years, Leaguers are needed once again to help fellow residents experiencing crisis, especially volunteers with skills they can share/teach in the areas of

Resume Preparation & Mock Interviews

Tax Preparation Help

Legal Assistance



Yet Another School Shooting

By Cathy Duoba



As this bulletin goes to publication, very few details are known about the shooting, but the following remarks I found thoughtful/important come from some initial interviews on TV. After 14 months and during an Ebola crisis, the nominee for Surgeon General is still blocked by Senate Republicans for calling gun violence a public health issue.

Rep. Carolyn Mahoney (D-NY): We in the Congress have joined to do everything necessary to stop Ebola. Yet we do nothing about the rise in gun violence. We grieve and remember the 56,000 soldiers killed during the years-long Vietnam War. Well, 56,000 Americans are killed every 2 years, yet we can't pass the common-sense measures that could combat this: tighter background checks, child safety locks, etc. It's not even a felony to deal in illegal gun trafficking. And there was even a law passed by Congress forbidding money being spent on gun safety research. We spend \$5B/yr to study cancer, yet more people die of gunshot wounds, particularly young people, and no money is going into this research.

87 school shootings since Sandy Hook, 20 since August. It's a public health emergency, a national disgrace!

Host Ari Melber: An FBI report: We have gone from 6 mass shootings per year to 16/yr just since 2000. Per the Wesleyan Media Project, the third highest spender in the mid-terms is the NRA political action fund.

Shannon Watts, Moms Demand Action: The gun lobby charges that after incidents like this, it is too early to talk about changing gun policy. For the people of Marysville, it is too late. The gun lobby has made sure there are no or very few responsibilities that go with gun ownership. We support the Second Amendment, but with rights go responsibilities. And that includes a background check for every gun purchase to make sure guns are not getting into the hands of criminals, domestic abusers, or persons with mental illness.

Mark Glaze, Everytown for Gun Safety: People are beginning to realize, we don't have to live this way. In the U.S., you are 22 times more likely to be murdered with a gun than in other industrialized democracies. And that's not because we have more mentally ill citizens than they do, but because we regulate guns differently – which is to say, almost not at all. While it is important we put real resources into mental health, we must recognize that mass shootings by persons who are seriously mentally ill is not the day-to-day reality of gun violence in this country where 32 people are killed by guns every day...Take your eyes off a dysfunctional Congress. There is a lot of progress happening on gun safety in the states, like Washington's November ballot citizen initiative 594 that extends the state's background check system to all private sales in the state.



Revisiting Sept Program: Policing Practices Developments in First Amendment Protections & Civil Rights Concerns

“Policing Practices” and speaker Mr. Ed Yohnka from the ACLU Illinois turned out to be a very popular program. In fact, sign-ins show we had more guests than members attending.

First Amendment Protections

Since our meeting, the ACLU has achieved another victory for civil rights in the Missouri courts to add to its earlier successful court battle to release the local police incident report (seems there was no official one written up after all). One of our Q&A discussions concerned whether protestors had the right to be unruly and impolite when protesting. Police insisted crowds be respectful, quiet, and moving or they forcibly broke up the protest.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch: Federal Judge bars police from forcing Ferguson protestors to ‘Keep Moving’

Federal judge Catherine Perry ruled on a lawsuit brought by the ACLU: “The ‘Keep Moving’ policy – as it was applied to plaintiff and others – prohibited citizens from peacefully assembling on the public sidewalks...The rule provided no notice to citizens of what conduct was lawful and its enforcement was entirely arbitrary and left to the unfettered discretion of officers on the street.”

Judge Perry quoted from the *Elrod v. Burns* decision: “The loss of First Amendment freedoms, for even minimal periods of time, unquestionably constitutes irreparable injury.”

A DISQUIETING THOUGHT

Recently, a civil rights activist asked,
“What would the Pettes Bridge look like if police had had military equipment?”

Civil Rights Concerns

The Justice Department (DOJ), which is conducting its own investigation of the Mike Brown shooting, has issued two very concerned statements in recent weeks. The first reported that “Ferguson police have accelerated their efforts to suppress peaceful protests” despite DOJ cautions.

Washington Post: Ferguson Police continued crackdown on protestors after federal, state interventions

Per the *Post*, 258 people have been arrested in the last two months, 95% of them booked on charges of refusal to disperse or unlawful assembly. Perhaps the court ruling above will quell this police enthusiasm.

In the second, U.S. Justice Department officials on Thursday criticized local authorities' investigation of the shooting death in Ferguson, Missouri, saying the case had been handled in a "selective" and "inappropriate" manner.

(Reuters: Justice Dept. 'exasperated' by local probe of Missouri teen shooting, Oct 23, 2014.)

Justice Department spokeswoman Dena Iverson: "The department considers the selective release of information in this investigation to be irresponsible and highly troubling. Since the release of the convenience store footage there seems to be an inappropriate effort to influence public opinion about this case."

ProPublica Report: Deadly Force, in Black and White. A ProPublica analysis of killings by police shows outside risk for young black males, issued Oct, 2014. Two excerpts: Black men are 21 times more likely to be killed by cops than white men are. 17,000 local police departments do not file fatal police shooting reports at all (as happened in Ferguson).



Different Perceptions, Different Portrayals

Last week demonstrators rallied at the St. Louis Justice Center carrying pumpkins and chanting “We have pumpkins, we are not armed.” The event was held to call attention to the disparities in portrayals and police responses to Ferguson demonstrators vs. the drunken rioters who destroyed property at a New Hampshire Pumpkin Festival. To the massive militarized response in Ferguson during daylight hours against peaceful protestors (which escalated tensions) vs. the more hands-off response at Keene State University during night hours.

St Louis Post-Dispatch: Smashing Pumpkins in Clayton leads to three arrests for littering, assault

“Keene State University students...were described as ‘unruly,’ ‘causing a ruckus,’ and ‘drunken revelers’ while Ferguson demonstrators were identified as ‘rioters’ and ‘thugs.’”

League Positions in the News: Women's Rights



Closed, then Open Again – the TX Women's Health Clinics Story by Cathy Duoba

August, 2013, there were 40 clinics distributed across Texas providing abortion and other women's health services (family planning, cancer screening, STD treatment, etc.)—and then Texas passed the Women's Health and Safety Act (WHSa). As various provisions of the Act took effect, 40 became about 20 clinics.

In late August, 2014, the federal district court blocked the 2 provisions of the Act that required abortion providers to have hospital admitting privileges and for clinics to meet hospital-level surgical standards. These harsh provisions had been opposed by the AMA and OB/GYN professional societies as not medically justified and too costly. On Oct. 2, a 3-judge panel from the conservative Fifth Circuit Appeals Court reversed that district court decision and ordered 12 of the remaining 20 clinics closed overnight. That left 8 clinics, all located in the major cities of eastern Texas, to serve the 5.4 million reproductive-age women of Texas, to perform 73,000 abortions/year. The number of abortions will probably rise as the TX legislature recently eliminated all state family planning programs. *NY Times*: [Reversal Allows Abortion Law Forcing 12 TX Clinics to Close](#)

The Appeals Court ruling: "...the evidence...is insufficient to show that a 'large fraction' of women seeking abortions would face an undue burden." REALLY? No clinics in the Rio Grande Valley or western half of TX! Abortion is a constitutional right for every woman, so shouldn't even one low-income Rio Grande Valley woman having to travel 250-300 miles for access to a legal abortion be an unconstitutional "undue burden"? OR: How large is large? Is almost one million large? They ruled abortion unavailable in more than half of Texas without at least a 3-hour drive, one way - affecting more than 0.9 million reproductive-age women there.

The Two "Unjustified" Provisions: Hospital admitting privileges. Almost impossible to get because abortion is so safe, the doctors cannot send enough patients to the hospital to justify the privilege. Not to mention, pro-life intimidation tactics against any hospital giving privileges to a "baby killer." **The Surgical Standards (TRAP laws):** These are targeted at abortion clinics; clinics performing colonoscopies, with much higher complication rates, do not have to meet these standards. The mortality rate for abortion is 0.67/100,000; for colonoscopy it is 34.5/100,000 or 50 times more dangerous (Source: *LA Times*).

The New Yorker: [The Disappearing "Undue Burden" Standard for Abortion Rights](#) by Jeffrey Toobin

"Those words—"undue burden"—represent Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's most important triumph during her long and consequential tenure on the U.S. Supreme Court. Almost single-handedly, O'Connor rewrote abortion law. ...her views, not coincidentally, roughly mirrored those of most Americans: abortion should be legal, but states should be allowed to impose some reasonable restrictions on the practice.

"When O'Connor wrote her last opinion for the Court, in 2006, in another case involving Planned Parenthood, the remaining eight Justices joined her in embracing the "undue burden" standard. Yet the key phrase did not have a fixed, self-evident definition. And as the Court moved to the right, following O'Connor's resignation, the scope of the constraints on state power began shrinking.

"Kennedy quoted O'Connor's language from *Casey*, in which she defined an "undue burden" as existing when the "purpose or effect [of the regulation] is to place a substantial obstacle in the path of a woman seeking an abortion before the fetus attains viability." But Kennedy went on, essentially, to ignore that definition, since he was approving a law that disallowed what was then the most common form of second-trimester abortion.

"The Fifth Circuit panel seems to believe that anything short of a nationwide ban on abortion does not amount to an undue burden on women's rights. This is the argument that will soon be heading to the Supreme Court."
If the Supreme Court agrees with the 5th Circuit, access to legal abortion will be a right on paper only.

NY Times: [Supreme Court Allows Texas Abortion Clinics to Stay Open](#)

On October 14, 6 members of the Supreme Court – **NOT ruling on the merits on the case**, and with no explanation -- put a hold on the TRAP provision and gave a reprieve to 2 clinics in the Rio Grande Valley from the admitting privileges requirement. The Center for Reproductive Rights (legal advocates) says it is not usual for the Supreme Court to step in between the 3 judge hearing and the "full-banc" hearing of a Circuit Court. They think the six felt overnight closure of all but 8 clinics was too drastic and that, once closed for months, with staff scattered and physical location lost, the closed clinics might never reopen if original ruling upheld.

Elections have consequences:

Most of the 5th Circuit Court are Bush appointees who passed the infamous "litmus-test" on abortion. This same court has also overruled district courts on anti-immigration, women's rights, and voter-suppression laws. Since the Republican sweep in 2010, 56% of American women live in states where their reproductive rights have been restricted.



Positions in the News: Climate Change, EPA/Coal/Fracking

By Cathy Duoba from various sources



EPA, “War on Coal”, & Natural Gas: As President Obama says, “The real War on Coal is natural gas. Because of new technologies [horizontal fracking], we are extracting at a rate that is unbelievable.”

Bloomberg: [The EPA Doesn’t Kill Coal Jobs, Better Mining Does](#) (graphs & stats on employment & production)

Since 1980, coal production increased 47% while mining employment dropped 52%.

Unfortunately, President Obama is right. Often we are trading carbon pollution from coal-burning power plants for the dangers of fracking as more power plants covert to cheaper natural gas. So, what about “clean coal”?

The \$5.6B Kemper County East facility, one of the most expensive domestic power plants ever built, is the last, best hope of clean coal supporters. Kemper County is supposed to capture 65% of the CO2 it generates through Carbon Capture & Storage (CCS), leaving a carbon footprint similar to natural gas. Mississippi Power has received \$0.5B in federal government grants and tax credits for the Kemper facility.

BUT AP: [Again costs rise and completion delayed at Kemper](#); Reuters: [Southern Company delays advanced coal plant to 2015 amid rising costs](#); *Washington Post*: [Intended showcase of clean-coal future hits snag](#).

The project is now \$9.5B over budget. Even Peabody Energy, the world’s largest coal mining company, said last September that CCS is not commercially viable and they were not buying into this idea. .

ALSO, a promotional video talks about CO2 permanently stored underground, but a company spokesperson says “we will be selling the CO2 to an oil company to help them take more petroleum out of the ground.” CO2 NOT stored; more petroleum, the worse of both worlds – joined. (Kemper Source: MSNBC, *All In*, 10-7&8-14)

Keystone XL A previous bulletin article told how landowners in Nebraska sued because the Governor had approved the pipeline route and the state constitution gave that duty to the Public Service Commission. The landowners won the lawsuit, but that does not mean they will win the war against Keystone construction across their lands and the Ogallala Aquifer. Common Cause Nebraska has discovered that 76% of campaign financing from identifiable donors for incumbent Nebraska Public Service Commissioners comes from the industries they regulate or people directly connected to those industries.



The Pentagon & Climate Change The Pentagon has deemed climate change a present-day risk to national security. Its latest national security report, “Dept. of Defense, 2014 Climate Change, ADAPTION ROADMAP,” states: “In our defense strategy, we refer to climate change as a ‘threat multiplier’ because it has the potential to exacerbate many of the challenges we are dealing with today...”

We are already beginning to see some of these impacts. “...impairing access to food and water; damaging infrastructure; spreading disease [bats migrating due to changing habitat may have brought Ebola to west Africa, that never saw it before]; uprooting and displacing large numbers of people, compelling mass migration; interrupting commercial activity; or restricting electricity availability.

“These developments could undermine already-fragile governments...as well as increasing competition and tension between countries vying for limited resources. These gaps in government can create an avenue for extremist ideologies and conditions that foster terrorism.”

Example: in Syria, drought moved huge numbers of people into the cities. Simultaneously, the Assad government was initiating austerity measures and cut-backs. Add tribal conflict as differing groups struggle for limited resources in crowded urban areas. The result was a popular peaceful uprising. The violent Assad crackdown forced an armed reaction that escalated into civil war – creating an opening for ISIS domination.



Fracking in Illinois Update The IL Dept. Natural Resources (IDNR) issued revised rules to regulate fracking. The Joint Cmte. on Administrative Rules (JCAR) is now considering IDNR’s proposal.

The revised second notice draft includes many critical improvements that have come under attack by industry, but further improvements are necessary to meet the minimum standards in the state statute. JCAR’s responsibility is to ensure that rules comply with the law. Sierra Club Illinois:

[Statement on Draft Fracking Rules Before JCAR](#) (lists 7 needed improvements)

Mad about Citizens United? You should be MANIC about McCutcheon!

Few persons have yet begun to understand, much less deal with, this much bigger danger.

(Parts from Public Citizen Testimony before Senate hearing on Campaign Finance Reform, July, 2014)



In April of this year, reversing some 40 years of established campaign finance law, the Supreme Court once again struck down rules on money in politics and ruled (5-4) that the long-standing “aggregate contribution limits” of the 1971 Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA) are unconstitutional on First Amendment grounds. *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission*.

Prior to the *McCutcheon* decision, **an individual** could contribute up to a total of \$123,200 per election cycle to all federal candidates and committees combined. Aggregate contribution limits were originally established in 1974 in response to the Watergate scandals that involved allegations of laundered campaign funds, illegal corporate contributions, “bought” ambassadorships by wealthy individuals and secret campaign cash. Aggregate contribution limits were upheld by the Supreme Court in the 1976 *Buckley v. Valeo* decision.

Far from “creating more freedom of speech,”

McCutcheon expands the rights of only a handful of millionaires and billionaires capable of making campaign contributions in excess of \$123,200

Ensuring a greater & dominant role for wealthy donors in American politics

WHY? Citing itself as precedent, the Roberts Court majority changed the legal standard for upholding campaign finance laws, holding that the interest in preventing “corruption or the appearance of corruption,” applied only to a genuine risk of *quid pro quo* corruption, not to using money to buy unfair influence over or access to public officials which previous courts recognized.



CFR: Key to Reaching LWV Goals & Restoring Democracy

League’s efforts to “achieve incremental reforms where possible in the short term, and build support for public financing as the best long-term solution” seem to be running up against new barriers erected by the Supreme Court...the 2012 LWVUS Convention urged the League to enlarge that arena by considering other means of challenging the Supreme Court’s interpretations, including amending the Constitution.” Since *Citizens*, League has supported the Disclose Act because requiring publication of the identity of donors who have been secretly financing campaign expenditures in federal elections would eliminate the “dark money” of those corporations and individuals who wish to remain anonymous like the Koch Bros. But it would not curb the more public donors, like Sheldon Adelson. The LWVUS Structures of Democracy Program combines League efforts on the issues of money in politics, redistricting, and amending the Constitution.

Possible Solutions

Prior to this July’s *McCutcheon* ruling, solutions were crafted to address unlimited CORPORATE election spending. “Corporations are NOT people” is easily understood by the public and a simple concept to promote. Public interest groups are still trying to fully understand the greater dangers of fighting unlimited private, individual contributions and to propose solutions. Past attempts to limit individual contributions have been tried, but failed. (eg, McCain-Feingold) Many solutions help but can’t directly limit corporate/individual expenditures.

Last July’s Senate Hearing on a Constitutional Amendment

USA Today: Senate panel advances plan to get money out of politics

“By a 10-8 vote, the Democratic-controlled Senate Judiciary Committee approved a measure that would give Congress and the states the power to ban corporations from spending money to influence elections. It heads next to the full Senate. The proposed amendment stands little chance of winning the required support of two-thirds of Congress, but the heated debate at the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday underscores the intensity of the fight over the growing role of unlimited money in elections.”

Huffington Post: Senate Will Vote On Constitutional Amendment to Roll Back Campaign Finance

“Introduced by Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.), the amendment would roll back *Citizens United* and *McCutcheon* rulings by re-instituting Congress’s power to pass legislation limiting campaign contributions/expenditures.”

Common Cause Legislative Solutions

- institute public financing for federal elections, which will give candidates a way to respond to unlimited corporate election spending
- legislate shareholder protections so the real owners of the corporations must consent before corporate funds are given to political campaigns/causes

Public Citizen Legislative Solutions

-- Turn the imaginary Internet disclosure systems envisioned by Kennedy and Roberts into reality by passing the "Real Time Transparency Act of 2014," which would require 48-hour disclosure of campaign contributions to candidates, parties and committees, as well as transfers from joint fundraising committees.

-- Ban or restrict "joint fundraising committees," which under *McCutcheon* are likely to become the preferred fundraising vehicle for major donors and the greatest potential source of corruption.

-- Strengthen the ban on direct candidate solicitations of contributions above candidate limits & extend the ban to include prohibiting candidate appearances (and appearances by representatives of candidate committees) at any fundraising event in which contributions in excess of candidate limits are being solicited.

-- Press for constitutional change to reverse *McCutcheon*.

-- Encourage the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to adopt rules mandating disclosure of corporate political spending by publicly-held companies, and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to pass rules that would clearly define political intervention by nonprofit organizations and enforce the current law prohibiting 501(c)(4) nonprofit organizations from making more than de minimis political expenditures.

Possible State Solutions from Illinois Campaign for Political Reform

Given the dysfunctional Congress, we may need to pursue state-level solutions. Public campaign financing options have been successful in at least 25 states, and new innovations are being studied:

-- Hawaii and Minnesota have implemented partial financing systems, so candidates can draw from both public and private sources of funds

-- Other systems, like Maine's "clean elections," are more expansive, completely cutting out big donors, where qualified candidates fund their campaign entirely with public funds, removing the need for fundraising.

-- New York City has multiple matching funds, which magnifies the power of small donors.

-- The Sunshine Project Database contains campaign contribution information for statewide, legislative, judicial, Cook County, and Chicago politicians.

NEWS FROM LWVUS



Arkansas Voter Photo ID Law Struck Down

The Arkansas Supreme Court struck down a state law that requires voters to show photo identification before casting a ballot, ruling the requirement unconstitutional under their state constitution.

League Urges U.S. Senate to Improve Ethics Process

The League joined coalition partners on a letter urging the U.S. Senate to publicly endorse, in a bipartisan manner, five constructive changes to improve the Senate ethics process.

EPA Clean Power Plan Comment Deadline Extended!

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has extended the deadline for public comment on the proposed regulation to cut carbon pollution from existing power plants. The new deadline is December 1. League members wishing to comment on the proposal can [send comments using the LWVUS action alert at lww.org.](#)

League Endorses S. 2865, Senator Gillibrand's Online Voter Registration Bill

The League endorsed S. 2865, the Voter Registration Modernization Act, which promotes the use of online voter registration. The LWV worked closely with Senator Gillibrand's office in the development of the legislation, and let the Senator know that we endorsed the bill as it reached the final drafting stage.

Thank You for Participating in the People's Climate March

Thank you to the members who came from around the country to participate in the People's Climate March in New York City. Over 400,000 people attended this largest event in the fight against climate change ever!

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<p>James R. Murray Jr. Manager</p>  <p>Lauterburg & Oehler Funeral Home 2000 E. Northwest Highway Arlington Heights, IL 60004 847-253-5423 Fax 847-253-9532 Cell 847-910-8230 jim.murray@sci-us.com</p>	<p>Be Inspired.</p> <p>THE MOORINGS OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS A @Presbyterian Homes Community</p> <p>Independent Living, Assisted Living, Skilled Nursing & Memory Care</p> <p>Call (847) 956-4304 or visit www.presbyterianhomes.org</p>

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Charter School Study Kick-off on Tuesday, Nov. 11!

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