



# 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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April 2015

Volume 60, Issue 9

### 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
<b>Tue, Apr 7</b>		<b>ELECTION DAY</b>
Fri, Apr 10	6:30-8:30 pm	LWV Palatine Area Wine-tasting & Raffle Fundraiser Tickets: \$35. Contact Renee at <a href="mailto:rrgladstone@aol.com">rrgladstone@aol.com</a>
Wed, Apr 15	5-7 pm	LWV Chicago's Chicago in Focus, at the Union Club IMMIGRATION: Update on Administrative Relief 65 W. Jackson Blvd, Chicago
Wed, Apr 22		45 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day A day of events like environment teach-ins and demonstrations in support for environmental protection
<b>Thu, Apr 23</b>	<b>7 pm</b>	LWV Monthly Meeting, Jointly with Palatine LWV "The State of the Lake" <b>Concerns about Lake Michigan</b> <b>CHANGE OF DATE AND LOCATION</b> Hoffman Estates Village Hall - Hennessy Room 1900 Hassell Rd, Hoffman Estates See page 3!
Sun, Apr 26	7 pm	LWV Chicago, Second City Fundraiser, \$30 due Apr 17.
Fri, May 8		Annual Reports due! Please send material to Connie.
Mon, May 11	9:30 am- 1 pm	LWV Cook County Annual Meeting, <b>DELEGATE NEEDED</b> Speaker: Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle Contact Connie Weissman or Judith O. Royal. See page 4!
Thu, May 21	Doors open 6 pm Potluck dinner 6:30 pm Business Meeting 7:30 pm	Our League's Potluck Dinner & Annual Meeting Arlington Heights Historical Society 110 W. Fremont, Arlington Heights

## A MESSAGE FROM

## THE LWVUS PRESIDENT

## ON KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE



Happy Spring-is-due Birdsong

President Obama vetoed the Congressional effort to force approval of the Keystone XL pipeline. Once again, in response to an action alert, the League stepped up and made our voices heard on this critical issue, sending nearly 14,000 emails to President Obama.

While we may have won the battle, there is still the war. The U.S. State Department is still considering its recommendation for final approval of the pipeline. Once that is completed, President Obama will need to take the final step to approve or reject the pipeline. The League is urging the President to reject the Keystone XL pipeline because it is not in our national interest. It will threaten the safety of our drinking water, promote a bad energy policy and increase the greenhouse gases in our atmosphere that contribute to climate change. Even the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has indicated that the pipeline will be a significant contributor to climate change if it is built. In short, the pipeline is **all risk, no reward**.

The League voice is critical to winning the war on Keystone XL. For 95 years, the League has recognized that protecting our environment means protecting the public health. The public health threat that this project represents cannot be overstated. In a time of falling energy prices, there could be no better opportunity to stand up for the health and well-being of Americans.



We are at a turning point in this fight and we need you to raise your voice yet again.

Let's keep those digital cards and letters coming in. Let's continue to remind President Obama of what he knows too well: **there is no PLANet B.**

[http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=10972](http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=10972)

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) "The increment of extra C/GHG that the tar sands create is the equivalent of 6M cars on the road for 50 years. That wipes out 70% of the benefits gained by the President's increased fuel efficiency standards for cars."



### LWV AH-MP-BG BOARD MEMBERS 2014-2015

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

### OFF-BOARD LEADERS

Membership/Finance	Pat Lind		
Publicity	Shannon Silverman		
Facebook	Heidi Graham		
Action Chair	<b>VACANT</b>		

## Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> Program: State of the Lake

Co-sponsored with the LWV Palatine Area

### CHANGE OF DATE, TIME, AND VENUE

**Hennessy Room, Hoffman Estates Village Hall**

What do we know about Lake Michigan and its water?

Try answering the following four true/false questions:

1. The Great Lakes holds 10% of the world's fresh water.
2. a US. Supreme Court Decree governs Illinois' use of Lake Michigan's Water.
3. The Chicago Area will experience more droughts than floods in the future.
4. Wetlands are a major source of drinking water contamination.

Did you choose one TRUE and three FALSE?

To learn the answer to the above questions and much more, come to the **April 23<sup>rd</sup>** program, THE STATE OF THE LAKE. The speakers are Tim Loftus from CMAP, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Judy Beck from League of Women Voters of the Lake Michigan Region,

They will speak to the many ways Lake Michigan is a valuable resource, the many threats it faces, and the methods, both existing and proposed, to protect it.

P.S. You might recognize the old song that will be played at the beginning of the program and also remember the name of the group performing it.



**It's Your Drinking Water!** Join us Thursday, **April 23<sup>rd</sup>**,  
**7:00** p.m.

Hennessy Room, Hoffman Estates Village Hall, 1900 Hassell Road, HE



### "MANNA MANIA" Hits April 23<sup>rd</sup>

By Rosemary Krizan



Certain types of MANNA Cards will be available for immediate purchase on a limited basis at the next monthly meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. (We are partnering the meeting with the Palatine League.) The specific cards: Jewel (in increments of \$25)...Mariano's (in increments of \$25) and VISA (in increments of \$50--no activation fee--great for First Communion--Mother's Day--Graduations--etc.).

If there is sufficient demand, orders for other types of MANNA cards will also be taken for later pick-up/delivery (think June Graduations and Weddings). League is counting on your support for these MANNA fundraising efforts. Perhaps you noticed that the budget in last month's bulletin is a deficit budget, even when pared down. This is a truly painless, easy way to counteract the deficit situation. Please bring your check book. Thank you, Rosemary.

### WATCH VAH CANDIDATE FORUM ON TV OR YOU TUBE. SHARE THIS INFO WITH VOTERS.

By Judith Royal

On the Village's access channel WOW Channel 6 or Comcast Channel 17.

Playbacks of the forum will be on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 11 a.m. and on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday at 5 p.m.

Online the forums can be viewed on LWV.on-the-web.tv

Q&A for the Write-in Candidates for Library Trustee was not recorded, but 2-minute statements were recorded.

The League's candidate forum is produced by Lorelle Communications, Inc.  
as a community service to the residents of Arlington Heights.



By Judith Royal

### What is Racism Really?

The Oklahoma fraternity chant goes "You can hang him from a tree..." The Equal Justice Institute has been investigating documented cases of lynching. They have found almost 4000 cases of lynching between 1897 and 1950. That is almost five per month year after year. Yet students are reaching university age and status so ignorant of that dark history that they can laugh and sing about it.

**Is racism saying the N word? Or is it institutional failure, like this of public education?**



## LWVIL Takes Action against Budget Cuts to Core Services Through the Responsible Budget Coalition

With the loss of income tax revenue, the state fiscal situation is growing worse. Illinois now has a bill backlog of over \$7 billion that could grow to as high as \$12 billion. Despite continued cuts to core services over the past several years, the Legislature will need to make difficult choices this spring. Gov. Rauner's proposed budget will **continue to cut services that Illinois citizens depend upon while requiring little or no sacrifice from Illinois' wealthiest citizens and without addressing corporate giveaways.**

The League opposes the deep cuts to education, community mental health, homeless youth, low income energy assistance and many other services. The League of Women Voters of Illinois belongs to the **Responsible Budget Coalition**, which is working to ensure the state continues to provide vital services in a responsible manner.

For updates on budget debates/action, sign up at [www.abetterillinois.org/](http://www.abetterillinois.org/)

### LWVCC Annual Meeting on May 11, 2015

**Needed: A volunteer to attend**

**Featured Speaker: Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County Board President**

The League of Women Voters of Cook County will hold its Annual Meeting on Monday, May 11, 2015 at the University Center, 525 South State Street, in Chicago.

All members of our League are also members of the Cook County League, and are invited.



### League Positions in the News: Criminal Justice Reform A Sea Change in Political Thinking

The sea change: recognition that the policies of mass incarceration and mandatory minimum sentences are untenable and have created a **500%** increase in state & federal prison population from 1976 to 2013.

A bipartisan summit in Washington, DC, is being called the Woodstock of Criminal Justice. The event's chief co-sponsors were the ACLU and Koch Industries, and its goal was reforming the criminal justice system.

Presentations featured a video of Pres. Obama and David Simon (creator of The Wire) discussing generations of kids growing up without their incarcerated dads and the drug trade being like a "company town" in some neighborhoods. Other participants were Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ), former GOP House Speaker Newt Gingrich (his 1994 Contract with America promoted funding for more prisons), even Matt Kibbe, Pres. of FreedomWorks.

Bills: The Smarter Sentencing Act cuts mandatory minimum sentences. The Redeem Act allows non-violent felons to seal their records, removing a barrier to finding employment & contributing to the economy.



### Supreme Court Takes Up the Death Penalty

*Washington Post*: Supreme Court will review lethal injection drug protocol used in executions  
Legally, morally, and logistically, the death penalty is in turmoil.

**The legal question.** The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in April. The three-drug protocol used in the Kentucky case that the court examined and approved seven years ago — and employed by states in most of the executions at that time — is no longer available. The growing number of botched executions may convince the Justices that currently used drug protocols are "cruel and unusual" punishment.

**The logistics.** As noted in earlier bulletins, the drugs previously used are no longer available through normal channels. And the drugs bought from unregulated "compound drug" makers are proving unreliable. Texas has only enough drugs left for one execution. Other states, like South Carolina, have none left. Some states have resorted to Plan B: Alabama & Tennessee resurrected their old electric chairs; Utah reinstated the firing squad.

### Chicago PD in ACLU Spotlight



ACLU: Chicago leads New York City in use of stop-and-frisk by police, new study finds

**Stop and Frisk in Chicago** . "The report on the practice by the Chicago Police Dept. highlights the use (and overuse) of the practice in Chicago, notes that the justification for such stops often fails to meet constitutional standards and makes recommendations for fixing CPD policies in order to curb abuses and restore community trust in the City. ... Most startling finding: during the summer of 2014, CPD conducted **more than a quarter million stops of civilians that did not lead to an arrest.** When comparing that number of stops to population in Chicago versus NYC at the height of that city's controversial use of the stop-and-frisk practice, **Chicagoans were stopped more than four times as often as people in New York.**" [www.aclu-il.org/](http://www.aclu-il.org/)

# League Positions in the News: ENVIRONMENT

By Cathy Duoba



## LWVUS ACTION ALERT: Keystone XL Pipeline

**Action Alert: Urge the President to Fully Reject the Keystone XL Pipeline** Pres. Obama fulfilled his promise to veto legislation approving the Keystone XL pipeline! The League is proud to stand behind the President's veto because the pipeline is not in our national interest. **But the fight is not over – President Obama and the U.S. State Department must still make a final decision on the Keystone XL pipeline.** Thank Pres. Obama for his veto and urge him to reject final approval of the Keystone XL pipeline once and for all!

## April Program Background: How Green Is My... Lake??

This past summer, algae blooms caused Toledo, Ohio, to shut down its Lake Erie drinking water system for several days. Toxic algae have been found in Traverse Bay, Michigan, and Green Bay, Wisconsin. Overgrowth of an algae named *cladophora* has impacted the health of beaches in Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

Agricultural run-off is part of the problem. For example, the Maumee River in Indiana flows through farmland. In order to prevent flooding and crop damage in the farm fields, a system of under-the-fields sewer pipes that drain into local ditches, creeks, and rivers, such as the Maumee, has been implemented. These have not been regulated, but the nutrient runoff from farming practices like these ends up in the Great Lakes.



The LWV Lake Michigan Region has a presentation about this problem for those who are interested

## CLEAN WATER/CHEMICAL SAFETY – TSCA & EPA

The 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) is outdated and deeply flawed: more than 80,000 chemicals have never been tested for safety. The bill from Sens. Udall (D-NM) & Vitter (R-LA) to reform TSCA is even worse than the existing law. Sen. Feinstein's Office (D\_CA) reported that the digital history of their copy of the bill said **the author is the American Chemistry Council**, lobbying arm of that industry.

San Francisco Chronicle: Questions raised on authorship of chemicals bill.

But the serious flaw is the Udall-Vitter bill would block states from regulating chemicals that the EPA plans to regulate, sometime in future. Stronger state chemical safety laws would be blocked until the EPA works thru its massive backlog of unregulated chemicals. EPA Asst. Admin. James Jones testified that under the Udall-Vitter bill it would take more than 100 years to develop rules for the 1000's of chemicals already in use.



## Fracking on Public Lands: Bureau of Land Management Fracking Rules

IPAA: America's Independent Oil, Natural Gas Producers File Lawsuit against Interior Dept. over Final Hydraulic Fracking Rules

Oil companies claim fracking is a safe path towards energy independence. The facts tell another story: Since 2005: Land **directly** damaged, 360K acres; water used, 250B gallons (water getting scarce in Western US, after fracking it is contaminated "drilling waste.") Air pollution in **one** year, 450K tons.

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.: "These new rules are weaker than we expected...but these new rules do not really require disclosure of fracking chemicals. There are all kinds of loopholes that allow the oil companies to say "No, that's a proprietary trade secret. I don't have to tell it to you." "

"**NY banned fracking** because the state Health Commission looked at the evidence and said this is causing tremendous illness in people, ...causing water contamination. The healthcare costs far outweigh the economic benefits." Ethan Manuel, Sierra Club: "Fracking isn't needed if more energy efficient. There are better ways ...rather than damaging our public lands, hurting public health, or using lots & lots of water we can't replace."



**Renewable Energy.** Reuters: Costa Rica to lower electricity rates due to renewables use

Think Progress: Costa Rica Has Gotten All of Its Electricity from Renewables for 75 Days Straight

Costa Rica has not used any fossil fuel to produce electricity since last December. The actual breakdown is 73% hydroelectric (mountains), 12% geothermal (also volcanoes), 12% wind, 3% biomass, & some solar.

**Climate Change Deniers: "There has been no warming for years"** Paul Douglas, meteorologist, explains "Yes, atmospheric temperatures plateaued somewhat over the last 15 years **because 90% of the warming is going into the oceans.** But how many coincidences do you need? 14/15 warmest years occurred since 1998." NOAA National Climate Data Center: 2014 Earth's warmest year on record; Dec 2014 record warm; global oceans also record warm temperatures for 2014.

**Climate Change, California Drought.** Rep Garamendi (D-CA), a cattle rancher, sold off 1/3 of his herd, says "25% of the usual rice crop unplanted last season. The walnut and almond orchards, dependent on surface water, are starting to die. One year's water left in our reservoirs...drought not predicted to end any time soon."

## League Positions in the News: Healthcare

### Conservatives Hijack Bill That Helps Survivors of Human Trafficking

From News articles, Underlined comments by Cathy Duoba

A bipartisan bill meant to help survivors of human trafficking is being hijacked by conservatives who put anti-abortion political grandstanding before women's lives. The Justice for Victims in Trafficking Act would increase fines collected from people convicted of human trafficking and establish a fund to help survivors. But anti-abortion extremists in the Senate want to prohibit survivors from using those funds for health care that may include abortions. They are insisting that the Hyde Amendment prohibition on **taxpayer funding** of abortions be extended to include prohibiting the use of **fees and fines** collected under this program to pay for survivor's abortion health services. This is a complete distortion of the principle behind the Hyde Amendment. I guess the lawmakers are not so sure if the human trafficking victim's pregnancy is really the result of "legitimate rape."

Senate Majority Leader McConnell has ordered that the confirmation of Loretta Lynch as Attorney General will be delayed until the trafficking bill is passed. It has become clear that conservatives' new campaign is to insert anti-abortion language into bill after bill that has nothing to do with using taxpayer funding for abortions (see CHIP article). P.S. Henry Hyde was the former US Rep. for the southern part of our area back in the 1980's.



### The ACA Five Years after Passage

From two news broadcasts

The Dept. of Health and Human Services announced 16.7 million persons got health insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act. The uninsured rate has dropped by 35% from pre-ACA rates, the largest drop since Medicare and Medicaid were implemented forty years ago.

Yet the establishment presidential candidate declared the ACA "flawed to the core" and vowed "to repeal and replace" Obamacare without offering an alternative. And the far-right's candidate called ACA "a train wreck."

The Affordable Care Act has made historic gains in women's access to health care coverage, but it has a major loophole that denies insurance to some pregnant women, and the Dept. of Health and Human Services has decided not to fix it. Persons can't sign up for coverage outside the three-month open enrollment period unless they experience a "qualifying life event." While childbirth is included as one of the "events," pregnancy is not, leaving uninsured women who become pregnant unable to obtain coverage for important prenatal care.

### Tennessee's US Rep. Marsha Blackburn's 'Misquote of the Year' – So Far

Blackburn at the recent CPAC Conference, "There is no example on the face of the earth where government-run healthcare is going to be delivered at a lower cost and is going to save you money and yield better outcomes." Except for every other industrialized country in the world, not to mention Medicare here at home.

### Courts Not Committing to Admitting Privileges Victories for Women's Health Clinics

By Cathy Duoba



State officials have openly acknowledged that they expected to close the remaining women's abortion clinics when they passed "admitting privileges" laws. For example, in Mississippi:

MS Gov. Bryant: "We are going to continue to try to end abortion in Mississippi. This is an historic day..."

MS Lt. Gov. Reeves: "Our goal needs to be to end abortion in Mississippi." OR

Sponsor, St. Rep. Bubba Carpenter: "We have literally stopped abortion in the state of Mississippi."

Of course, no law can stop abortion – it can only stop legal, safe abortions and endanger women's health and lives. Yet proponents have the gall to name these TRAP (targeted restrictions against providers) laws "The Women's Health and Safety Act." Both the AMA and OB/GYN professional groups have testified that these laws have no medical basis or necessity.

So far, federal judges seem unwilling to help stop a federally protected right and have blocked implementation of these laws in some states.

Bustle: Anti-abortion Admitting Privileges Laws Are Falling Like Dominos Across the Nation

"[Last month] a federal judge struck down Wisconsin's admitting privilege law promoted by Gov. Scott Walker."

"a federal judge ruled Alabama's admitting privileges law as unconstitutional."

"a federal judge issued an injunction blocking Louisiana's admitting privileges law."

But what some call the "forced birth" forces, because they oppose both birth control and abortion, fight on.

AP: Mississippi appeals blocked abortion law to the Supreme Court

# Children's Health Insurance, An LWVUS Action Alert Victory Over Anti-Abortion Inserts

By Cathy Duoba



Huffington Post: [House Stuns Itself by Passing Bipartisan \\$214B Medicare Package](#)

The bill “fixes a massive funding gap in Medicare and extends healthcare for poorer children.” LWVUS had issued alerts to Leaguers to push for passage of this Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The bill was being held up by the insistence of the conservative House majority on inserting anti-abortion rhetoric in the bill. The bill passed after Speaker Boehner agreed to take out the anti-abortion language. The anti-abortion language in the human trafficking bill remains in that bill.

## Texas Lawmakers Endanger Women’s Health

By Cathy Duoba

The Texas General Assembly meets every two years. In 2011, they slashed family planning funds by 2/3s (birth control, cancer screenings, preventive care, pre & post natal care), despite warnings of closed clinics and unintended pregnancies. The cost: a net loss of \$163M (some savings!) and 30,000 unintended births.

The *Texas Tribune*: [Project Explores Effect of Family Planning Cuts in Texas](#)

In 2013, Texas lawmakers passed the strictest anti-abortion TRAP laws in the country, including outpatient surgery standards & admitting privileges. More clinics closed, leaving only 5 abortion clinics, all located in the NE Texas cities. In mammoth Texas, rural women in the south and west are 4-500 miles away from help.

Now, in 2015, Dallas Morning News: [Anti-abortion groups target Planned Parenthood cancer screening](#)

Texas legislators are going after women’s cancer screening program. Since that program is primarily funded by the feds, the goal is not fiscal. Conservatives are restructuring this program in hopes of closing the few remaining Planned Parenthood abortion clinics by cutting a source of funding. BUT, these cuts will also close dozens of women’s clinics which provide the only health services available to poorer women – and have nothing to do with abortion. And a small backlash is starting.

## Other Positions in the News

By Cathy Duoba

### The Supreme Court & Independent Redistricting Commissions

Early in March, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments on whether it is constitutional for a state (AZ) to take its legislature out of the redistricting process and give that power to an independent commission. The AP reports five conservative Justices appeared skeptical that independent commissions, approved by voter referendum, can supersede the constitutional power given to state legislatures.



### Campaign Financing: The Best Government Money Can Buy

Dr. Jason Johnson, political analyst and Political Science professor at Hiram College:

“The Koch Brothers are planning to spend three times the amount of money needed to control Congress. If this is not the canary in the mine for both political parties to realize they have to get together and do something about campaign finance reform...If we have people willing to buy an election – not start their own political party and go to the voters – but actually buy an election, this is horrible news for the future of our democracy...We can’t pretend anymore, this is going to be a bought and paid for election.”

### But, People Can Just Ignore the Ads and Vote the Issues, Right?

The University of Delaware did a study of local TV newscasts in the Philadelphia Area in the final eight weeks before the 2014 elections: “Political Ads and Local TV News.”

*USA Today*: [Political ads overwhelm news on local TV.](#)

“For every minute of issue coverage, the audience was treated to 45 minutes of paid propaganda.” Local TV stations are benefiting from the revenue these ads bring in. ...in the presidential elections of 2012, local TV stations received over \$2.9B (80%) of political spending... Journalism never had a fighting chance.”



## VOTING RIGHTS: March Goes Out Like a Lion

By Cathy Duoba

### The Really Good News from Oregon and California

By Cathy Duoba

In late March, the governor of Oregon signed a law establishing automatic voter registration in Oregon, thus adding about 300,000 eligible, but unregistered, citizens to the voting rolls. And the idea is catching on.

Capitol Alert: [Automatic voter registration sought in California](#)

California officials and lawmakers want their state to be the second state to pass this form of registration. As California Secretary of State Padilla remarked: "If government knows who's here, who's 18, who's a citizen, why go through the hoops?" The Secretary's Office estimates this would create nearly 7 million new voters.

### WHO bears the Burden of Proof? Critical !!

In Illinois, the voter registration applicant is asked (under penalty of perjury) date and place of birth or court where naturalized. The **government must check** the answers, easily done with today's computerized records. Compare that to states with restrictive Voter ID laws, where **the citizen** without the qualifying ID **must proof he/she has the right to vote** and takes time off work to obtain the requisite underlying documents, plus a marriage license for married women. These states claim "the ID is free," but missed work, travel and the underlying documents are not.

### Meanwhile in Wisconsin and Ohio

**Wisconsin** Gov. Scott Walker is fundraising for donations "to celebrate" the implementation of Wisconsin's strict Voter ID law: "Democracy's most precious gift is protected." From statistically negligible in-person voter fraud, as shown by court records.

When the district court judge blocked the law previously, he estimated "...approximately 300,000 registered voters, roughly **9%** of all registered voters, lacked a qualifying ID." By comparison, the 2012 presidential election was decided by 205,204 votes in Wisconsin. This ID law can definitely change election results.

**Ohio** has already cut the Early Voting period, especially on Sunday and evening hours, and eliminated same-day registration. Now a last-minute provision inserted into the state's transportation budget would require out-of-state students registering to vote in Ohio to obtain an Ohio driver's license and vehicle registration within 30 days. The cost: \$75 or more – money students need for textbooks, not to mention required trips to DMV and driving test. Ohio Sec. of State Husted insists it is not about voting, it's about residency: "If you are going to have the privileges of being an Ohio resident, you have the responsibilities...this [law] is no difference from that, all it does is set a time limit for that of 30 days."

Dale Ho, Director of the ACLU Voting Rights Project listed the fallacies: (1) Voting is not a PRIVILEGE, it is a RIGHT. (2) The decades-old Supreme Court *Sims* decision permits students to vote in the state where they are enrolled in college. (3) The Constitution prohibited poll taxes or other taxes as barriers to voting forty-nine years ago. He noted 20% of the 2014-15 freshman class at Ohio State University was from out-of-state.

### USA Today: Supreme Court lets Wisconsin voter ID law stand

By Richard Wolf, March 23, 2015

Edited by Cathy Duoba



WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court refused today to hear a major challenge to Wisconsin's voter ID law, delivering a victory to Republicans who favor tougher election laws. The decision is a setback for civil rights groups that contend the law could disenfranchise hundreds of thousands of residents who lack proper ID — particularly racial minorities, seniors, students and people with disabilities. It turns both sides' sights on Texas, where a similar statute is pending before a federal appeals court. Eventually, the [Supreme Court is] likely to resolve the festering issue. It appears a majority of high court Justices approve of photo-ID laws such as Wisconsin's, which does not involve allegations of intentional racial discrimination. **None of the high court's more liberal justices voiced dissent with the decision not to hear the case.**

The American Civil Liberties Union immediately filed an emergency motion to block [implementation of] the photo ID requirement [for the local election 2 weeks away], and the state agreed to do so. Thereafter, the justices' refusal to hear objections to the law means that Wisconsin will become the eighth state with a strict photo identification law that allows no exceptions to a government-issued ID. The others are Georgia, Kansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. [With voter ID bills pending in dozens more.]



## History of the Wisconsin League's Challenge to Voter ID

From [Scotusblog](#) & [LWVWI website](#). Although the Wisconsin voter ID law, aka "Act 23," was passed over three years ago, it has since been used only once in a state primary election in 2012 - because of the LWV WI lawsuit challenging its validity. Initially, two state courts blocked its enforcement in 2012 based on the state constitution, and a federal trial judge in April of [2014] ruled that the law violated constitutional guarantees of equality and Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The federal judge concluded that the ID requirement would deter voting by a substantial number of the 300,000-plus registered voters who lack a proper ID and declared it unconstitutional because it disproportionately affected black and Hispanic residents.

That ruling, however, was set aside in a temporary order by a three-judge panel of the Seventh Circuit, allowing the state to begin enforcing the requirement. Then, the *en banc* Seventh Circuit voted five to five, and thus failed to review the panel's action.

After the challengers took the issue on to the Supreme Court, asking it to wipe out the three-judge panel's stay order, the panel then issued its final ruling, overturning the trial judge's decision and declaring that "Act 23" does not violate either the Constitution or the Voting Rights Act. [The Supremes refusal lets this decision stand and the Voter ID law be implemented.] Court hearings continue on which IDs should be declared valid.

**Editor's note.** Critical to the protection of voting rights is whether the judge uses **INTENTIONAL** discrimination (as the Supreme Court Justices appear to favor) or **DISPROPORTIONAL EFFECT** (as the federal district court judge did) as the standard to measure "constitutionality." It is VERY hard to prove someone's intentions - unless they are dumb enough to voice them publicly as Republican legislative leaders did in Pennsylvania. The Texas federal appeals court is generally seen as even more conservative than the Wisconsin appeals court, so the chance is small that the Supreme Court will have to step in to resolve differing appeals court decisions.

## As LWVUS repeatedly proclaims: We MUST restore the Voting Rights Act!

### LWVUS Blog: Nationwide Assaults on Voting Rights Continue amongst Some Wins

By: Tim O'Brien 03/02/2015 (excerpts)

Two months into the 2015 State Legislative sessions and as expected we have seen a groundswell of assaults on voters in many states. At the same time, happily, there are a few states where pro-voter reforms are moving forward. League activists are working to fight back against anti-voter threats as well as to advance opportunities for voters.



### First the Good News:

After two and half years, Florida Governor Rick Scott has given up on his appeal of a federal court order that said the state's attempt to purge the voter rolls of suspected noncitizens during the 2012 presidential campaign violated federal law. The LWV of Florida filed an amicus brief in this case.

Voter photo ID bills died in Nebraska and Colorado. Along with voting rights coalition partners, the LWV of Nebraska helped defeat a bill requiring a state-issued voter photo ID. A bipartisan vote stopped this discriminatory bill. In Colorado, the LWV Colorado helped defeat two proposals to require voter photo ID for voters registering on Election Day or on the days immediately prior.

Finally we have seen, or expect to see, bills introduced which would implement new or expand existing early voting laws in Michigan and South Carolina and online voter registration legislation [was] introduced in Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and Oklahoma.

### Now the Not So Good News:

The LWVs in Georgia and Arkansas are fighting again against bills to shorten the early voting period. Voter photo ID bills have been or are expected to be introduced in Arkansas, Maine, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, & West Virginia, where Leagues continue to play an active role in fighting these bills. Working in coalition, they have testified at numerous hearings, met with legislators, written letters to the editors, sent out action alerts to their members and supporters, and have educated the public on the harm these bills could cause to individual voters and the very fabric of our democracy. Proponents of voter photo ID in Missouri and Arkansas are proposing constitutional amendments, since those respective state Supreme Courts have found previous voter photo ID laws unconstitutional.

The evidence of the assault on voting rights is crystal clear - yet we remain cautiously optimistic that League along with our partners can once again help defeat some of these proposals.



## **NEWS FROM LWVUS**

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**Money in Politics Forum Up and Running** for League members who are interested in discussing the Money in Politics review and update. Barbara Zia, MIP Committee Chair will moderate the forum. To sign up, go to the [Member Resources Site](http://forum.lwv.org) (forum.lwv.org), sign in and join the [Money in Politics Forum](#) (listed under Forums in the red navigation bar).

### **League Joins People's Voting Rights Manifesto**

The League joined civil rights organizations in issuing the [People's Voting Rights Manifesto](#) in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday and the Selma to Montgomery March on March 8, 2015. This document was distributed at the re-enactment of the Selma March and the celebration of the Voting Rights Act.

### **Senate Fails to Override Presidential Veto on Keystone XL Pipeline**

In a 62-37 vote, the [U.S. Senate failed to override a presidential veto](#) on legislation to approve the Keystone XL pipeline. Last week's veto by President Obama was lauded by the League in a [press release](#). The League is proud to stand behind the President's veto because the pipeline is not in our national interest.

### **League Opposes H.R. 412 and H.R. 195**

The League sent [a letter](#) to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration urging Representatives to vote no on H.R. 412 and H.R. 195. These bills would **repeal the presidential public financing system** and terminate the Election Assistance Commission (EAC).

### **League Supports Presidential Library Reform Act**

The League sent [letters](#) to the U.S. House Oversight and Government Affairs Committee and the U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee in support of H.R 1069 and S. 558, the Presidential Library Reform Act which introduces a measure of **transparency to fundraising for presidential libraries.**

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<p>TELEPHONE (847) 253-5100</p> <p>JOHN W. CAVERS, D.D.S. GRANT H. TRUNNELL, D.D.S.</p> <p>OFFICE HOURS BY APPOINTMENT 1020 SOUTH ARLINGTON HEIGHTS ROAD ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS 60005</p>	 <p><b>DROST KIVLAHAN McMAHON &amp; O'CONNOR LLC</b></p> <p>11 SOUTH DUNTON AVENUE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL 60005-1475 847.577.2227 847.577.2204 FAX</p> <p><b>GEORGE T. DROST</b> ATTORNEY AT LAW <a href="mailto:gdrost@dkmolaw.com">gdrost@dkmolaw.com</a> <a href="http://www.dkmolaw.com">www.dkmolaw.com</a></p>
<p><b>James R. Murray Jr.</b> Manager</p>  <p><b>Lauterburg &amp; Oehler Funeral Home</b> 2000 E. Northwest Highway Arlington Heights, IL 60004 847-253-5423 Fax 847-253-9532 Cell 847-910-8230 <a href="mailto:jim.murray@sci-us.com">jim.murray@sci-us.com</a></p>	<p><b>Be Inspired.</b></p> <p><b>THE MOORINGS OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS</b> A @Presbyterian Homes Community</p> <p><b>Independent Living, Assisted Living, Skilled Nursing &amp; Memory Care</b></p> <p>Call (847) 956-4304 or visit <a href="http://www.presbyterianhomes.org">www.presbyterianhomes.org</a></p>

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