

# ***THE VOTER***

## **AUGUST 2018, V.69, #6**

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### **PRESIDENT'S POST: NEWS FROM NATIONAL AND STATE**

***President: Sue Whitworth***

*\*For this edition, we bring you important recent updates, as reflected in League publications at the national and state level.*

#### **News from National**

Jeanette Senecal, the Senior Director of Mission Impact at the **LWVUS**, reminds us that this month marks the 53rd anniversary of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) signed by President Lyndon Johnson. The VRA outlawed discrimination in the voting booth, regardless of race or language, and is a cornerstone piece of legislation ensuring every American has the right to vote. Unfortunately, in 2013, the Supreme Court overturned an essential provision of

the VRA in the decision of *Shelby County v. Holder*—an outcome that has led to countless attacks on the voting rights of Americans. Since that wrongful decision, we have seen voters across the country face institutionalized obstacles at the voting booth:

- Unnecessary voter purges that disenfranchise eligible voters
- Discriminatory voter photo ID requirements
- Restrictions on early voting
- Fewer and more crowded polling locations in underrepresented communities

With the midterm elections fast approaching, we need to reach [out to] our representatives in Congress to restore the VRA.

## **News from State**

The **LWVIL** is changing . . . the annual State of State event from a luncheon to an evening event at Arlington Race Track in Arlington Heights. . . . The event is . . . Saturday, **September 29, 2018**, from 6:00 to 11:00 PM. Save the date.

Be on the lookout for Time for Action (TFA) alerts that alert us to important legislation. The most recent alerts urge to contact Governor Rauner (in Springfield, 217/782-0244, or, in Chicago, 312/814-2121) to sign two important healthcare bills that will preserve access to adequate health insurance for Illinois citizens.

## **HB 4165 HA1 Do No Harm Healthcare Act**

### **ACTION NEEDED**

Call Governor Rauner and ask him to sign HB4165 HA1 Do No Harm Healthcare Act into law. This bill would prohibit state officials from applying any

federal waiver, or other action without legislative approval, that would reduce or eliminate any protection or coverage required under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This involves preventing any attempts to restrict or eliminate healthcare coverage, including but not limited to those [plans that cover] preexisting conditions. This includes any individual and group health insurance and Medicaid.

### **WHY IT MATTERS**

At [present], the U.S. Congress and the Trump administration are proposing actions that could threaten the health and well-being of Illinoisans. These actions include rolling back consumer protections, cutting benefits, increasing consumer costs, and restricting access to healthcare coverage. The Do No Harm Healthcare Act would require the General Assembly to approve any proposed waiver, ensuring [that] any attempt to restrict access to healthcare is open to public debate, oversight, and scrutiny.

### **HB2624 SA3 Short-Term Limited Duration Health Insurance Act**

### **ACTION NEEDED**

Call Governor Rauner and ask him to sign HB2624 SA3 Short-Term Limited Duration Health Insurance Act. . . . The purpose of this bill is to regulate short-term limited duration health plans. This will be accomplished by establishing a maximum coverage of 181 days in any given year. [It] will also require clearly written disclosures on all sales and marketing materials for these plans.

### **WHY IT MATTERS**

On **August 1, 2018**, the Trump administration finalized a rule to allow the sale of short-term health insurance, expanding the duration from 90 days to 364 days, and allowing renewals for up to three years. Short-term plans are not

regulated by the ACA or the Illinois Insurance Code. They can discriminate against people with preexisting conditions, they regularly rescind coverage when people become sick, and they are not required to cover any of the 10 essential health benefits. Without action on a state level, the new rule will entice healthy individuals to purchase these inadequate plans and [will] result in higher premiums or coverage denial for 5 million individuals in Illinois with illnesses and preexisting conditions. The plans are very confusing for consumers, and an expansion in enrollment into short-term plans could severely destabilize . . . individual marketplaces.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Whitworth

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## **PLAN TO BE ENGAGED: PROGRAM**

*Vice President: Jan Dorner*

### **General Membership Meetings**

Twelve League members met recently to come up with ideas for the next year's general membership meetings. Thank-you, Annette Armstrong, Cindy Burke, Jeanne Davik, Ed Dorner, Carol Landou, Katie Marsico, Dorothy McGuire, Edgar Pal, Kathy Quinn, Sue Williams, and Sue Whitworth (and me!) for helping plan our upcoming year.

Most of our general membership meetings will be held the fourth Thursday of the month (**December 1, 2018**, being a combined date for November and December) in the Elmhurst Public Library's Kossman Room.

We set dates for two candidate forums. The first is **September 16, 2018**, and the second is **February 10, 2019**. We have already reserved the Elmhurst City Council Chambers for both and have arranged recording for cable television, as well.

On **September 27, 2018**, our meeting will be about the possible Elmhurst School District 205 referendum (that might be placed on the ballot on **November 6, 2018**) or, if a referendum doesn't go on the ballot this coming November, the meeting will be about the master facility plan for District 205.

Our meeting on **October 25, 2018**, will include an overview of [IllinoisVoterGuide.org](http://IllinoisVoterGuide.org) and a representative from the Citizens' Climate Lobby. This speaker will address the climate change resolution that will appear on York Township voters' ballots.

We'll probably plan a holiday party for **December 6, 2018**, and are still looking for a venue for this.

We have lots more planned for 2019, so stay engaged!

### **Mock Elections**

Mock elections have been held in DuPage County every two years since 2008. They have been funded several different ways, but this midterm election has been a challenge. Initially, we had an agreement with the Executive Director of the DuPage Election Commission that we would pay for the ballots used, while they would supply all the equipment and transport it to and from participating schools. Within the last month, however, the Executive Director resigned. A Leaguer representing this DuPage group met with the Interim Executive Director, Suzanne Fahnestock, who committed to doing what the previous

administration had agreed upon.

We have pursued several grant possibilities and have reached out to the Election Commission itself, the DuPage County Board, the DuPage Regional Office of Education, and local school superintendents. It appears that we have perhaps found funding. The Election Commission has set a date of **August 10, 2018**, to make a decision. We will keep you informed.

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## **A LOOK ONLINE: WEB HIGHLIGHTS**

***Webmaster: Jeanne Davik***

**Have you visited [lwvelmhurst.org](http://lwvelmhurst.org) recently? Click on these website tabs to see what's new:**

**VOTING & ELECTIONS:** To prepare for the November general election, the Illinois League is producing a new Illinois Voter Guide, which will enable voters to get information on all the candidates and referenda on their ballot simply by entering their street address. Our website has links to both the Guide and the handy Illinois online voter registration website.

**ISSUES & ACTION:** If you live in York Township, you will have the opportunity in November to vote on a ballot resolution directing Congress to address the serious threat posed by climate change. Look for a sample ballot, a map of York Township, and an explanation of why this effort is being made.

**OBSERVER REPORTS:** We cover meetings by many governmental bodies, but we have the most current and complete reports on the actions and deliberations of Elmhurst Community Unit School District 205 and the Elmhurst City Council, thanks to our wonderful observers. Be sure to check out their

latest reports.

[ACTIVITY CALENDAR](#): Your best source for upcoming League meetings and events is our online 2018–2019 calendar. Some of our plans still need to be finalized, so be sure to check back every month. Our first public event is a candidate forum on Sunday, **September 16, 2018**. We will again have the candidates submit written answers to our questions at the time of the forum. Ultimately, we will produce our own online Voter Guide—always a big success!

[JOIN LWV](#): If you haven't paid your dues for this year, you can do so, quickly and easily, on our website using your credit card or PayPal account.

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## **AN ACTION-PACKED AUTUMN: VOTER REGISTRATION**

***Voter Registration Chair: Kathleen Quinn***

### **Involving New Members**

There are some exciting things going on in Voter Services and Voter Registration! Earlier this month, a new **LWV-Elmhurst** member emailed me and wanted to host an event at her son's graduation party. So, we got her to be a registrar! I can't wait to hear how it went.

### **Birthday Boxes**

In addition, I think we may explore doing what Naperville has done with [birthday boxes](#). I first learned about the concept from another League member when I was doing Membership-Leadership Development (MLD). (For those who do not know, the **LWV** creates birthday boxes and then coordinates with social studies teachers to distribute them to students who have recently turned 18. They are filled with everything from information on location elections to details about voter registration.) I can't thank everyone enough for their help making this happen here.

## **Voter Registration Events**

For anyone that is a registrar, we will be hosting several events at the Elmhurst Public Library. The dates are as follows:

**September 7, 2018** (We are hoping for a morning time slot.)

**September 10, 2018** (We are hoping for an afternoon time slot.)

**September 18, 2018** (We are hoping for a morning time slot.)

**September 26, 2018** (Time TBD)

**September 29, 2018** (We are hoping for a morning time slot.)

If you can make any or all of the dates above, please email me at [kathleen.quinn@net.elmhurst.edu](mailto:kathleen.quinn@net.elmhurst.edu) or call me at 872/222-3550. I will also try to work on scheduling events at other libraries. If you have a suggestion, please let me know. I would love to host as many events as we can!

Finally, in September, I will attempt to arrange a meeting with staff at Fenton High School in Bensenville. I hope that we can further develop a relationship with them during the next few months.

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## **DON'T FORGET YOUR DUES: MEMBERSHIP**

***Membership Chair: Carol Landou***

**LWV-Elmhurst** membership dues were required by **June 30**, before the end of our fiscal year. If you missed the deadline, please get your checks in; you can make them payable to the **LWV-Elmhurst**. Our mailing address is: The **LWV-Elmhurst**, PO Box 12 Elmhurst, IL 60126.

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, you can also pay online via PayPal. See

our [Membership Page](#) for further details.

- Basic Membership: \$70.00 per person
- Two-Member Household: \$100.00
- Student Membership: \$35.00 per person

Dues are not tax-deductible. For a tax-deductible donation, a separate check made out to the **LWVIL** Education Fund would be appreciated (with a note in the memo line to Elmhurst).

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## SAVE THE DATE!

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Also check the [Activity Calendar](#) on our website for the latest updates.

- **September 2018 (9/7, 9/10, 9/18, 9/26, 9/29):** *Voter-Registration Events at the Elmhurst Public Library (125 S. Prospect in Elmhurst); [details about specific times for these events and information about other voter-registration events to come](#); call 872/222-3550 or email [kathleen.quinn@net.elmhurst.edu](mailto:kathleen.quinn@net.elmhurst.edu) with questions or to volunteer to help as a voter registrar.*
- **September 16, 2018:** *Candidate Forum from 12:00 PM–5:00 PM at City Council Chambers at Elmhurst City Hall (209 N. York Street)*
- **September 27, 2018:** *General Meeting from 7:00 PM–9:00 PM at the Elmhurst Public Library; meeting will cover either an Elmhurst Community Unit School District 205 referendum or the district's master facility plan (pending whether the referendum is placed on the November 2018 ballot).*

- **September 29, 2018:** Annual State of the State Event from 6:00 PM–11:00 PM at Arlington International Racecourse (2200 W. Euclid Avenue, Arlington Heights, IL 60005)
- **October 25, 2018:** General Meeting from 7:00 PM–9:00 PM at the Elmhurst Public Library; attendees will receive an overview of [IllinoisVoterGuide.org](http://IllinoisVoterGuide.org) and hear from a representative of the Citizens' Climate Lobby.
- **November 6, 2018:** Midterm Elections; don't forget to vote!
- **December 6, 2018:** Holiday Party; details TBD
- **February 10, 2019:** Candidate Forum from 12:00 PM–5:00 PM at City Council Chambers at Elmhurst City Hall

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## TRIVIA TIME AND OTHER REMINDERS

On **August 18, 1920**, which state ratified the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution . . . thus making it the law of the land?

*Check out our September edition of The Voter to find out if you were correct!*

In the meantime . . .

*Please like us on Facebook:*

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

*Visit our website:*

<http://www.lwvelmhurst.org/>

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