



The Chicago Voter

League of Women Voters of Chicago
Website - www.LWVChicago.org

January 2011
Vol. 61 No.6



CO – PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

To our Members, Supporters, Government Leaders and Candidates:
Season’s Greetings.

Speaking of candidates, I think we are all aware that a major local election is coming up. We have a long list of mayoral hopefuls making the rounds of various business, school and neighborhood meetings in order to get their message to the public. Not only are there many candidates for the office of mayor, but did you know that 350 citizens submitted petitions to be aldermen? The challenges to their eligibility are still being heard, but a final roster should be certified by the end of December. The turn-out of candidates, although overwhelming, is a good sign of democracy at work. The negative is that so many individuals make it difficult to hold a forum.

A mayoral debate will be held by ABC7, co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Chicago, Thursday, February 17, 2011 at 7:00 pm and to be rebroadcast at 10:35 pm. Several other community organizations are also supporters of this event. The program will take place at the Oriental Theatre and some tickets will be available to our members.

As for other government offices, some neighborhood organizations have contacted us about debates for aldermen. When we know who is certified we can start to make plans. If there is a forum in your ward, please participate by attending and helping with the program. Unfortunately, we have to deal with a Chicago winter that often makes us want to stay home. Come to the events, and don’t forget to vote.

Other LWVChicago programs coming up are *Lunch with the League*, Wednesday, January 12 at 12:15 pm., Program Planning Briefing on Saturday, January 8 at 10:00 am and a Health Care Briefing on Saturday, January 29 at 10:00 am (not in the conference Room but in 430) plus a Book Club meeting on Tuesday, January 18 at noon.

I’m ready for a long winter’s nap.

Best Wishes to ALL!

Esta

Dates To Remember

Meetings held at the League Office
Unless otherwise noted

NO UNIT LEADERS MEETING IN JANUARY

Social Policy Committee
Monday, January 3
10:00 am - noon

Executive Committee
Monday, January 3
Call of the co-presidents

**Briefing
Program Planning
Saturday, January 8
10:00 am – noon**

Board Meeting
Monday, January 10
5:45 pm

“Lunch with the League”
Banking and Lending
Wednesday, January 12
12:15 pm – 1: 15 pm
Dan Sprehe
JPMorgan Chase

Book Club
Tuesday, January 18
Noon

**Briefing
Health Care
Saturday, January 29
10:00 am - noon
Room 430**

**Any other meetings
Call the League
Office
312-939-5935 x28**

Become more active in 2011 – Join a Unit, Join a Committee, Come to Briefings, *Lunch with the League*, and the Book Club, and be involved with the Election.

CANDIDATES DEBATES AND VOTERS GUIDES

The LWVChicago Mayoral Debate Committee has been working with ABC7 on the Mayoral Debate scheduled for one hour on Thursday, February 17 at 7 PM. The debate will be held at the Oriental Theatre and admission will be ticketed. The live debate will also be on the Web at 7:00 pm, rebroadcast at 10:35 pm and available on the ABC7 Web site. The moderator will be Ron Magers. Which candidates will participate and the other panelists are not yet determined.

Members of the committee are working on planning a debate for the candidates for City Clerk and for aldermanic debates as requested. The committee also plans to use the LWVChicago Web Site to provide information to the public about the candidates in the form of referrals to other web sites and perhaps posting some candidate responses directly.

The scope of activity that LWVChicago can carry out is dependent upon YOU, our members. Please volunteer some time to work at the debates and/or to do "office work" relating to obtaining candidate information.

Send the information about your availability to AldermenChicago2011@LWVChicago.org, call the office or mail in the information form below:

Name: _____

Resident of _____ Ward

Contact Information, Phone: _____

Email: _____

Days and Hours available to work:

Helene Gabelnick

LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE Wednesday, January 12 12:15pm – 1:15 pm Conference Room

The road to economic recovery is on top of the mind for many right now, and January's "Lunch with the League" will shed light on the current and future state of the banking and mortgage markets. Join the League of Women Voters of

Chicago as we welcome Dan Sprehe, a government relations executive at JPMorgan Chase. Mr. Sprehe will provide insight and answer your questions about banking and lending issues facing our country and state.

Martha Music

BRIEFING PROGRAM PLANNING Illinois and Chicago Saturday, January 8 10:00 am to noon

This is the January Unit meeting topic, as we must have replies in time for the Board meeting on February 14. See pages 3, 7 and 8 for more information.

Winnie Slusser

HEALTH CARE Saturday, January 29 10:00 am to noon, Room 430

Nancy McKenna, an attorney and a registered nurse, will present a general overview of the "Healthcare Reform Law." She will consider some of the near term requirements for 2010 through 2013 and the longer term provisions for 2014 to 2018. She will also report on some of the state constitutional challenges to the law and the expectation that the US Supreme Court will ultimately decide these challenges.

Helene Gabelnick

BOOK CLUB Tuesday, January 18 Noon

The book we will discuss is *Gang Leader for a Day* by Sudhir Venkatesh, a memoir of his years observing life in the Robert Taylor Homes in Chicago. His portrait of day-to-day life in this community is insightful and disturbing. Bring your lunch, we'll provide coffee and dessert.

Pat Graunke

TRIBUTE FUND

A donation in memory of Clara Fleming has been made by

Leslie Corbett-Chenoweth

Money donated to the Tribute Fund is put in the Operating Fund – we rely on the State of the City® Luncheon for our Education Fund.

We have also received a donation to the Education Fund from the Davee Foundation.

PROGRAM PLANNING BRIEFING JANUARY 8TH - 10:00 AM – NOON

January always is our month to do Program Planning. This year it is for the biennium of 2011-2013 and covers both LWVChicago and LWVIL. The LWVIL material must be in by March 7 which means that it must be approved at the February Board Meeting. Chicago's material can wait a month longer. Please keep this in mind as you do your planning for the January Unit meetings.

Program changes to be made by State Convention may be made before Convention or during the Convention proper.

BEFORE CONVENTION:

First we must review the present positions and decide whether to RETAIN, STUDY/UPDATE or DROP, remembering that to drop a position means that we can no longer act on that in the name of LWV. Summary of LWVIL Positions is on page 8. The entire *LWVIL Where We Stand* can be found on the LWVIL Web site, LWVIL.org

We may also make recommendations for a new study. Such a study is ONLY needed if there is no League position at a level higher than the one at which the study is contemplated. This necessitates work not only from the LWVIL Board, but from local Leagues in the study of an item and requires time and effort on all of our parts.

Choose an ACTION FOCUS, a high-priority program adopted by delegates at Convention, which leads to coordinated efforts by all local Leagues to promote goals of this "action focus."

AT CONVENTION:

CONCURRENCE is the adoption or amendment of a LWVIL position by agreement with a position developed by a resource committee or one formulated by a League board or another League. This works best if the question is clear and non-controversial. To do this LWVChicago must follow the LWVIL by-laws.

WILL OF CONVENTION:

"At Convention, a local League may present a motion directing the State League to take legislative action on an issue related to state government or to State League program. The

issue must be covered by an existing position at the state or national level."

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY:

"An ACTION FOCUS is a program item adopted by the delegates at Convention; "legislative priorities" reflect both the interest of the League and the prevailing political climate."

These are approved yearly by the LWVIL Board based on recommendations forwarded to the Issues Committee and are set in November or December prior to the succeeding year's spring legislative session. Local Leagues are notified of the priorities after the state board approves them.

Material adapted from the LWVIL Instructions

A similar process is used by LWVChicago, but your response may be sent in a bit later as we must approve it by the April board meeting. Summary of Chicago League Positions are on pages 7 and 8. The entire *LWVChicago Where We Stand* is available on our web site, LWVChicago.org.

Thus, your January meeting MUST be on Program Planning at least for LWVIL. You may divide the process into two meetings, but please get all state material back to the LWVChicago office by February 5.

Unit Meetings

Unit 1/5

Monday, January 17, 5:45 pm
Home of Dianne Handelsman
Leader – Margaret Herring

Unit 9/11

Sunday, January 9, 2 PM
Third Unitarian Church
301 N. Mayfield
Leader – Joan Morton

Unit 21/35
with Unit 22

Leader – Carol Westerlund

Unit 22

Thursday, January 20
10:00 am – noon
League Office
Leader – Bernice Fortini

Unit 66/74

Thursday, January 20, 1:00 pm
Montgomery Place
Leader – Dorothy Scheff

CITY OF CHICAGO BUDGET REPORT FROM LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE

Chicago's \$8.3 billion operating budget for 2011 is a financial plan to provide programs and services to promote the health, safety and welfare of city residents, Eugene Munin, Chicago Budget Director told the attendees at the December "Lunch with the League." The plan represents the allocation of scarce resources, he added.

Where does the money go? The total appropriation is \$6.15 billion with the corporate or general fund accounting for 49.7% of the total; the self-supporting enterprise funds for the two airports, water and sewer funds, 27.8%; debt services, 8.9%; employer contribution to pension funds, 6.9% and special revenue funds such as the vehicle tax which is used for streets and roads, 6.8%.

Where does the money come from? For all local funds, totaling \$6.15 billion, the property tax is 13.5%, which is used **ONLY** for pensions and debt service; aviation, 18.2%; water and sewer, 11.4%; sales taxes, 8.5%; utility taxes, 7.8%; income taxes (a *per capita* rebate from the state) 6.7%; fines, forfeitures and penalties, 4.2% and non-tax revenue, 29.7%.

For the \$3.26 billion corporate fund, non-tax revenue, 18.9%; other local taxes, 17.2%; sales taxes, 15.2%; utility taxes, 14.7%, income tax, 9.5%; reimbursements, 9.1% and unreserved fund balance, 0.3%. Also 4.7% in advanced reserves and 10.5% in proceeds and transfers (TIFs) were added to the revenues for the corporate fund in order to balance the budget.

More than 80% of the corporate fund supports personnel costs for the 26,820 employees, more than 90% of whom are covered by collective bargaining agreements. About 75% of this amount covers the police and fire departments. Those have five year contracts with a total of 19% increases; both imposed by arbitration.

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees did not agree to open the contract to permit furloughs. Employees in that unit were laid off. The Laborers were in the middle of a six-year contract; that union gave up 10%. Non-union employees did not receive raises and took a 9.2% cut through furloughs.

In discussing the services provided through the corporate fund budget, Mr. Munin noted that the

city spends \$210.4 million on streets and sanitation, which includes garbage service, snow removal and tree maintenance; \$89.3 million to repair vehicles and manage the fleet and \$84.1 million to maintain the right-of-way including paving and other services.

The city has also decreased its workforce from 38,402 in 2002 to 32,922 in 2011, a cut of 15%.

The funding of pensions is a major concern. City employees do not receive Social Security, although Medicare has been provided. As recently as 1993, the pension fund was in good condition, with a good ratio of funds available to meet expected payouts. In the last few years, the pension laws have changed – benefits have increased. Early retirements have shifted payments from the corporate and other city funds to the pension fund. The funding component of contributions has not changed. The City's contribution to the pension funds will change in 2015. City employees pay 8.5% of their salary to the pension fund, which is matched by 1.5% from the city for a total of 10%. For police the city matches with 18% for a total of 27%.

Mr. Munin was in Springfield for the legislature's discussion of pension reform. Chicago as a "City of more than 500,000 population" was to be given only 25 years beginning in 2015 to fully fund the pensions; all other jurisdictions were given 47 years, with all ending in 2050. The state did not see all the implications of this action, including the possible doubling of the City's property tax.

Mr. Munin discussed other sources of city revenue – the tax on electricity is based on consumption, while the tax on gas is a combination of consumption and the price of the commodity. Revenue such as amusement taxes, hotel and restaurant taxes are considered economically sensitive issues.

On the topic of TIFs, the funds must be used for projects or given to the taxing bodies. Any surplus is sent to Cook County, the schools and the city, he explained. Development involving TIF funds needs City Council approval. Community involvement is a policy rather than a fiscal issue he said.

Finally Mr. Munin stated that Chicago has a \$200 million capital budget and a debt of \$300 million.

Norma Braude

LWVCC LUNCH & LEARN REVIEW

“They are the guardians of our most cherished democratic ideals” is the way Cook County Public Defender, Abishi C. Cunningham, Jr. (retired Judge), described the people who work in the Public Defender’s Office at the November 15, *Lunch & Learn with the League* sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Cook County.

The mission of the Office is to protect the rights and dignity of each person accused of a crime. Public Defenders are appointed by judges to represent those accused of a crime who cannot afford a private attorney. They are dedicated to the cause of making sure the legal system works and they truly feel they have a calling. There is a 37-member Elite Homicide Unit that defends indigent people accused of capital crimes, along with an Appellate Unit and a Forensic Science Division. The Public Defender’s office has to pay for its own evidence tests, as well as ballistic and other experts. Where does the money come from? Us, the taxpayers; mainly from Cook County government, though the State of Illinois also is supposed to supply the money from the Capital Litigation Trust to cover the costs of murder cases. However, as further evidence of the problems with State finances, the State is in arrears from 2009 and has paid nothing toward the amount owed for fiscal year 2010.

Judge Cunningham applauded the League for its efforts to repeal the death penalty. He stressed that there were millions of dollars more that are being spent on cases involving the death penalty that could be saved or spent more wisely to improve the justice system. Further, it costs the State of Illinois (and therefore the taxpayers) far more to pursue the death penalty than to house convicted murderers for life without parole.

Highlights taken from Pris Mims’ report

If you would like to learn more about the Cook County Public Defender’s Office, LWVCC member Pris Mims recommends reading *Defending the Damned* by journalist Kevin Davis.

EDUCATION

Material being provided by the education list serve from LWVUS is covering a broad range of topics. As noted in the December *Voter* the Education Committee planned on meeting in

January, but may postpone the discussion of the two books recommended by LWVUS as background to February since the January Saturday Calendar is already crowded with two briefing sessions scheduled for LWVChicago.

This will give time for you to read the two books recommended: Linda Darling-Hammond’s *The Flat World and Education* and Diane Ravitch’s, *The Death and Life of the Great American School System*. Your chair has now read both of these books, and she attended the *Catalyst* session which featured Diane Ravitch last spring. Neither book is pleasant reading, both of them are critical of the efforts which have been made to improve public education.

Winnie Slusser

CTBA DECEMBER REPORT

The Center for Tax and Budget Accountability has put out a new report: *Gender Disparity in Human Services – The Impact of Illinois’ State Budget Cuts in Human Services Supporting Women*, by Ralph M Martire, Executive Director, Yerik Kaslow, Principal Author and Jamie Bernstein, CTBA Intern.

This report highlights the loss of programs/services for women as budget cuts have impacted on them most severely.

Sexual Assault services received \$7,439,000 in FY 2009 and dropped to \$6,104,000 in FY 2011.

Domestic Violence, which impacts more on women, received \$22,233,000 in FY 2009 and \$18,937,000 in FY 2011.

Children’s Services received \$801,992,000 in FY 2009 and \$710,058,000 in FY 2011.

Teen Parent Services received \$15,219,000 in FY 2009 and 12,067,000 in FY 2011.

Family Planning monies dropped from \$986,000 in FY 2009 to \$680,000 in FY 2011.

Homelessness monies dropped from about \$25,000,000 in FY 2009 to \$15,000,000 in FY 2011.

These changes will have a devastating effect on women (and children) in poverty which is on the rise as the budget is cut.

LWVUS

League President Elizabeth MacNamara joined with the heads of other concerned organizations urging the Senate to pass the New START Treaty. They were successful; it passed on December 22, 2010.

Concern about secret money in American Elections has meant the LWVUS has joined with others to keep up the pressure to pass the DISCLOSE Act, which failed in 2010.

A federal district court judge in Virginia ruled that the individual mandate for Health Care was unconstitutional, but didn't block implementation of other provisions of the Act. Other attempts to block the law have failed thus far.

Advocacy Priorities for 2011 will be determined at the late January LWVUS Board meeting. If you would like to have input, please let LWVChicago know by the Board meeting on January 10, 2011.

LWVIL

We have our work cut out for us in the new legislative session – we MUST find a way to correct the budgetary process and obtain adequate funds to provide services needed for all people in Illinois.

Sign up for the Issues Briefing, Saturday, February 5, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm. This is your opportunity to become well informed on the problems facing the state of Illinois that LWVIL considers most important at this time.

LWVCC

Lunch & Learn with the League (see page 5 for a report on the November event) is a series of fundraisers featuring information about different aspects of Cook County government. Proceeds are used to help fund the League of Women Voters of Cook County, one of the LWVs of which you are a member.

Areas of interest that you can participate in at the County League level include the Cook County Budget, and also on the specific area of Special Funds Budget; the Forest Preserve District; the Health and Hospital Systems generated much interest; and the Juvenile Justice Committee.

Contact LWVCookCounty for further information.

LWVCHICAGO

Some of the activities of LWVChicago in which you may participate are described on page 2 of this **Voter** – please consider one of the all-member meetings: *Lunch with the League*, the Book Club and specifically now the February election activities at both Citywide and at the Ward level.

We would like you to become involved with the existing committees: Social Policy (meets monthly generally the first Monday of the month), Education – a LWVUS Study as well as a Chicago study (a regular meeting schedule will be set up in January), Membership, State of the City®, Mayoral Debate committee, and the committee which will be formed on Privatization (the second LWVUS Study). Other issues which become action oriented may necessitate the creation of additional committees.

If you are not active in a Unit, consider joining one of those which now exist, or form one beginning with three to five people in an area who find a convenient time to meet and discuss those items of general interest to Leaguers. The calendar of meetings include: Program Planning in January, Health Care in February, Environment in March, Education or Freedom of Information Act in April, Social Policy in May and a Legislative Update in June.

And don't forget the Annual Meeting for LWVChicago on June 18, 2011 following the LWVIL Convention on June 10-12, 2011.

You will find a report on the Chicago City Budget on page 4 of this **Voter**.

The Chicago Voter

League of Women Voters of Chicago

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Norma Braude	Secretary
Rochelle Riffer	Treasurer
Winnie Slusser	Voter Editor pro-tem

Summary from Chicago Where We Stand

CITY GOVERNMENT: The Chicago League favors the mayor-council form of government with non-partisan aldermen elected for a four-year term from each of the fifty (50) wards. Such election to be held after the redistricting of the wards following the ten-year census.

CITY COUNCIL PROCEDURES: The council should meet regularly and be legislative not administrative. Council committees should be as few as possible, meet regularly with timely public advance notice of meetings. Testimony should be part of the permanent record. A method to bring items out of committee for consideration and for splitting items with more than one proposition should be created.

The Journal of Proceedings of the City Council should be available at least 48 hours before the next meeting, indexed with a summary of debate. Other documents or records may be published separately if needed for reference.

THE MAYOR should be elected on a partisan ballot and should be a policy maker with a chief administrator overseeing the department heads who shall be held responsible for their areas.

CITY BUDGET: Should have a Municipal Budget Code and present expenditures by program in a line-item form, listing revenue from all sources. The budget making procedures should allow time for pre-budget hearings (to be held in neighborhoods as well as centrally), departmental hearings (with enough time for consideration of pre-budget hearing information as well as the departments – giving time to process amendments), public hearings with consideration of amendments (available in print) providing time for further hearings if needed before passage. The capital budget should be a separate item. Privatization of services should be considered if it will reduce costs/improve services in areas of specialized skills or when needed for rapid implementation of a pilot project. It should only be used if there are enough potential contractors to provide competition but should not be used to bypass labor unions or be at the expense of fair and safe working conditions or equal employment opportunities. Fringe benefits must be included.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE: Our present tax system is inadequate. We support General Revenue Sharing and aid to distressed cities. Statewide LWV supports equitable distribution of tax burden to relieve property taxes (improving assessment procedures) and a reduction of sales tax (on food and medicine). LWVChicago rejects gambling, specifically casino gambling as a source of revenue as it does not meet the LWVUS position “to promote economic health and improve the quality of urban life.” It may lead to an increase in crime and addiction to gambling diverting income from other entertainment.

HOUSING: There should be an agency to undertake long range planning with Housing and Neighborhood Development administering and coordinating neighborhood services. Chicago’s League supports open housing policies with a city commission to investigate and initiate complaints with recourse to the courts should conciliation and mediation fail.

Multi-family housing: The Chicago league supports exemptions for multi-family rental housing targeted to building and tenants in particular trouble. ***Condominiums:*** Strong tenant and consumer protective measures should be included. We support programs and policies to provide a decent home and suitable living environment for every family. The city should actively seek funding for displaced tenants to help eliminate homelessness. The city should guarantee and facilitate low-interest partnerships to create multi-family, mixed-income rental units, utilizing Federal help. Where possible, developers should be required to set aside low-income units as a condition for doing business.

LIVING WAGE: Shall be required in any publically funded project.

LAND USE: *The lakefront* should be used for public recreation only, enhancing its natural beauty, opposing an airport in the lake. *Parks* should be used for public recreation only, keeping buildings to a minimum, with equitable distribution of funds for maintenance and development. *Sports stadium:* No public funds should be used to support construction or operation of a sports complex.

EDUCATION: We support universal compulsory education within the mandatory age (5-18) and increased funding. We support the Mayoral appointed Board of Education, with advice from an advisory commission, staggered terms, and expenses subsidized. Administration should be as decentralized as possible.

Local School Councils should have some authority over discretionary funds and student code of conduct as well as advisory roles in hiring and firing of principal and teachers, preparation of the lump-sum budget and textbook selection. Parents, students and teachers should participate in policy determining supplemental curriculum with the principal having authority to select teachers, prepare the budget and use discretionary funds as approved by the LSC. Principals should be subject to performance review by the LSC.

Quality and Equality: There should be improved facilities, programs and policies and innovative plans to provide quality and equality of educational opportunities, including integration of students and faculties. We support teacher certification and assignment, transfer and tenure policies flexible enough to allow faculty integration and encourage innovative instruction, thus ensuring qualified dedicated teachers. Physically and psychologically positive environments should exist with effective pupil-teacher ratios.

Desegregation: The Chicago League supports magnet schools and programs with busing as a way to make quality education available to all. Housing pattern changes are needed to meet a long range goal of neighborhood integration. Human relations training must be available. Adequate facilities with maintenance, rehabilitation and construction are needed to meet the needs of the students with an understanding of the fiscal arrangements for such work.

CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY: The system should provide resources and services to meet the educational, research, informational, cultural, and recreational needs of all Chicago residents. An adequate budget must be available with an increase in property taxes and other public and private resources. There should be a complete central library in one location, adequately staffed and a primary source for information. Branch libraries should meet the needs of the community and cooperate with neighborhood schools providing outreach to those who need it. Community participation in library decision-making must be available.

CABLE TV: Freedom of expression must be guaranteed. A minimum of public access channels and franchises must provide equal services. Subscriber privacy must be protected.

HANDGUNS: We support a ban on further manufacture, sale, transportation and importation for private ownership of handguns and their parts, along with registration. Licensing and permits should include handgun education.

SUMMARY OF LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ILLINOIS 2009-2011 PROGRAM POSITIONS

GOVERNMENT:

Constitutional Implementation and Amendments: Support for League positions to implement, amend and uphold the 1970 Illinois Constitution.

County Government Structure: Support for expanded citizen initiative powers to address county government structure and support for changes in the Illinois County Executive Act.

Criminal Justice: Support for improved criminal justice procedures and alternatives to incarceration.

Death Penalty Abolition: Support for abolition of the death penalty in Illinois.

Gun Violence Prevention: Support for handgun and assault weapon control.

Schools: Support for a public school system that is equitable in both quality for the student and financing for the taxpayer.

State Election Laws: Support for improved election laws and procedures applied uniformly throughout the state and opposition to term limits for members of the Illinois General Assembly. Support for election reforms that increase voter participation and are fair and equitable for all eligible citizens.

State Fiscal Policies: Support for a diversified revenue system which principally relies on a combination of broad-based taxes and user fees, is equitable, progressive, stable, responsive and simple.

State Redistricting: Support for a redistricting process which is timely, orderly and meets the basic criteria relating to population, compactness and contiguity and the requirements of the 1965 U.S. Voting Rights Act and subsequent amendments.

NATURAL RESOURCES:

Land Use: Support for a state land use policy that addresses the problem of conflicting uses for the land resources of Illinois.

Large-Scale Livestock Facilities: Support for strict regulation of large-scale livestock facilities on the state, regional and county levels.

Pesticides: Support for reduction in pesticide use and the promotion of non-toxic alternatives.

SOCIAL POLICY:

Children's Services: Support for improved state and local services by Illinois state agencies serving children and their families.

Immigration: Support for state and local community efforts to provide orientation and counseling services for all immigrants. Support provisions for educational programs and materials on rights in the workplace for all workers, driving certificates for undocumented workers and the availability of auto insurance for holders of certificates. Oppose deputizing state and local police to enforce immigration laws and ordinances that penalize landlords for renting to or prohibit issuance of business permits to undocumented immigrants. Oppose extending the right to vote to undocumented immigrants.

Income Assistance: Support for income assistance and support services for all low income individuals and their families.

Mental Health: Support for comprehensive and coordinated services for mentally ill adults and children in both state facilities and community-based programs.

ACTION FOCI and STUDIES

Fiscal Policy and Tax Reform: Promote efforts to address the inequities of the state fiscal system in order to provide stable, reliable and adequate revenues for public education and other social services.

Campaign Finance and Ethics Reform: Promote efforts to impose contribution limits, require full, immediate disclosure of all contributions, and to provide enforcement and monitoring mechanism to assure transparency.

True Count Census 2010 and Redistricting Reform: Promote full participation of all Illinois residents in the 2010 Census in order to achieve a full count and to promote a redistricting process that is timely, orderly, transparent, and meets the basic criteria relating to population, compactness, contiguity, and the requirements of the 1965 U.S. Voting Rights Act and subsequent amendments.

Update Position on Recall and Term Limits: The current LWVIL position supports Recall only for elected judges and is found under the Constitutional Implementation and Amendments Position. LWVIL opposes Term Limits for members of the General Assembly.