



The

# Chicago Voter

League of Women Voters of Chicago

Late Summer 2008

Website - [www.LWVChicago.org](http://www.LWVChicago.org)

Vol. 59. No. 1



## Dates To Remember

Meetings held at the League Office  
Unless otherwise Noted

Executive Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>  
– call of pres.

Development Committee  
Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 – 4:00 pm

**Unit Leaders**  
**Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am – noon**

Board Meeting  
Monday September 8<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 pm

Development Committee  
Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup> – 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Education Committee  
Thursday September 11<sup>th</sup> – 5:30-7:30 pm

Social Policy – Housing Committee  
Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am – noon

Development Committee  
Thursday September 18<sup>th</sup> 2:00 – 4:00 pm

All member meeting  
Briefing – Great Lakes Compact  
Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 am -noon

## President’s Column

Summer seems to be slipping away, but the fall will have much for you to consider with the General Election scarcely ten weeks away. I think that you will find some activities to be of interest. If you are a deputy registrar we need your help. Friday and Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> we will hold voter registration at University of Illinois, Chicago. Other requests may come and we need more registrars. Let Terry Williams know if you would like to be one. Leave a message at the office if you cannot reach her. Last year we had more members turn out to do pollwatching. I hope all of you will do it again, and if you haven’t done it before, sign up. It’s easy. Election judges are always needed, this is something else you can do, Again Terry will tell you how.

Our main project this fall is a candidate’s fair at University of Illinois, Chicago Friday evening, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. All the candidates on the Chicago ballot are being invited. Encourage young adults, college-aged, or any age person – all are welcome.

The September Briefing is an all member meeting on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in the office. The topic is “The Great Lakes Compact. Jeanette Neagu of the Lake Michigan Inter-League Organization will speak.

The major issues from the LWVUS Convention are: Global Climate Change, Health Care, the National Popular Vote compact, and other voting-related topics. We will be providing briefings for discussion throughout the year.

Remember to check our web-site: [www.lwvchicago.org](http://www.lwvchicago.org). The Voter’s Guide should be up by October. It takes time to get in contact with the candidates and post their responses.

Relax, I am, and enjoy the next few days.

ESTA



This is the last Chicago Voter that  
will be an all-member mailing  
If we have your email address  
We will send **The Chicago Voter** via email  
Unless you request snail mail

## Election activities

### Election Judge

Election Judges are always needed. Training is required. Call Terry Williams for information on how to become an Election Judge.

### Deputy Registrar

In order to be a Deputy Registrar, you need to be sponsored by an organization. For LWV Chicago to sponsor you, contact Terry Williams to let her know what date you will be able to attend the Training Sessions at 69 W. Washington, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room. She will set it up. Once you have gone through this training, you may be involved throughout the year (except for the time immediately before an election) in registering people to vote.

#### September 2008

Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> – 9:30 am

Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 pm

Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> – 3:00 pm

Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 pm

Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> – 9:30 am

This is the last training prior to the close of registration on October 7<sup>th</sup> for the November 4<sup>th</sup> Election. Class registration closes the day before at 4:00 pm for the afternoon and evening sessions, and two days before for the Saturday sessions.

### Poll Watcher

The League of Women Voters will again be sponsoring Poll Watching for the November election. You will not be expected to spend the entire day in this activity. What you will have will be a Questionnaire asking about any problems the judges experienced in setting up and finishing the day. You will only need to get there before closing to answer all of the questions at your polling place.

If there are two or more precincts at your site, you can do two at once. The League will provide training in the use of the questionnaire. This is a really easy activity to help find problems and improve voting procedures for the future.

### VOTE

There will again be early voting available this year. It is expected that all Leaguers will vote, unless circumstances prohibit it. **THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ELECTION – THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING.**

### LWVChicago's Election Projects

LWVChicago along with the Graduate and Undergraduate Councils of the University of Illinois Chicago is sponsoring a Candidates Fair at the new UIC Forum, 745 W. Roosevelt Road, Chicago on October 3, 2008 from four to eight pm. All candidates who will appear on Chicago's ballot have been invited. This is open to the public and we ask all Leaguers to bring their friends, neighbors, and any interested people to meet the candidates, including the judges who are running for retention.

Deputy Registrars will be available as this occurs just before close of registration for the November Election.

In addition, the Chicago League is developing a *Voters Guide* for our website asking each candidate:

1. Why do you want to serve in this position?
2. Which major issues do you feel are important to your constituents?

As soon as we receive their replies to these questions, we will post the information on our website, [www.lwvchicago.org](http://www.lwvchicago.org) for your viewing.

Call the League Office, 312-939-5935 extension 28, (Chicago League) for further information on how you can be involved in this most important election of 2008.

***Your Involvement is important  
To the League of Women Voters  
And to the Country***

## The Year Ahead

### CALENDAR – BOARD LIST

On the inserts in this Voter you will find a Board List and Calendar/Map for the year. On it you will see suggestions for the Units as well as the Briefings and All-member meetings. Keep these sheets even if you throw out the Voter.

### FALL

Obviously in the beginning of this year the League of Women Voters of Chicago emphasizes the election coming in November. We ask you to get information to the general public on the Referendum for a Constitutional Convention.

#### LWWIL Position

*The League of Women Voters of Illinois opposes holding a constitutional convention at this time. We believe the present constitution is serving the citizens of Illinois and may be changed using the amendatory process where necessary.*

*A constitutional convention opens the entire constitution to revision with the risk of losing many of the important gains achieved in 1970. It is estimated that the convention would cost at least \$78 million, and this money could be put to better use at a time when state resources are limited.*

*The serious lack of preparation and public information by Illinois government officials on a constitutional convention means that there is insufficient time to educate the public adequately on the complexities of the issues.*

If your unit or a group of Leaguers want to help your community organizations, this is a topic which we feel is of great importance for the November election.

September's all-member meeting and briefing on September 27<sup>th</sup> will be on the Great Lakes Compact. There will be further information in the September/October Voter. This could be your November unit meeting after the election.

We ask all of you to put October 3<sup>rd</sup> on your calendar for the Candidate's Fair at the University of Illinois Chicago, (see Election article). This is the work of the Development Committee which meets regularly on Thursdays from 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

We welcome anyone who wishes to be involved in making the Chicago League stronger. The Membership Committee meets with the Development Committee as they work together to bring in new Leaguers.

The first Monday of the month is usually the meeting of the Social Policy/Housing Committee. Since that is Labor Day, their September meeting will be on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Lois Snyder Chairs this committee - welcome new members.

The Education Committee is still working on a regular meeting time. At present it will meet on the second Thursday after the Development/Membership committee at 5:30 pm. This will enable those who are working the Loop area to attend. The position in *Where We Stand* needs to be updated and new positions reached regarding Renaissance 2010 and other Chicago Board of Education issues. In November will be the usual Fiscal Policy/budget/taxes briefing.

Again – since Discussion and Consensus is the way the League reaches its positions, and the way it spreads its information, we ask you to seek out the Unit in your area, or form one with several other people. Most of our units meet with six to ten people, which is ideal for sharing of ideas. Call the office if you need help in getting people together – we have our membership categorized by zip code so that we can give you the names of people in your area. The Unit Leaders are listed in the Board List.

Since for the months of September and October we will be having two All Member meetings, that is meetings open to all Leaguers and their friends, we are requesting you to call your Unit leaders for specifics on what your Unit is doing.

#### UNIT MEETINGS

Unit 1/5 – Margaret Herring

Unit 9/11 - Joan Morton

Unit 21/35 – Carol Westerlund or Betinna Schwartz

Unit 22 – Bernice Fortini

Unit 41/42 – Betsy Perrine

Unit 66/74 – Dorothy Scheff

# Housing Report

## NATIONAL HOUSING TRUST FUND PASSES

By Lois Snyder

“Victory is sweet,” said Sheila Crowley, president of the National Housing Trust Fund Coalition. “The people of the . . . Fund Campaign have worked very hard to get it enacted into law, and now we have.” Senator Bernie Frank who first introduced the bill in the House in 2001 said, “We won the ‘old-fashioned way’ by building a grass roots movement committed to success as long as it took.” Many of you were part of that movement as you contacted your Senators and Representatives.

On July 30 when President Bush signed HR 3221 the Housing and Recovery Act of 2008, he also reformed the Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSE’s) Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae by creating a single regulator to oversee the GSE. “As created in the bill, the Housing Trust Fund is a *permanent program with a dedicated source of funding* not subject to the annual appropriations process.” (Italics mine.)

Ms Crowley continued, “Today marks the return of the federal government to the business of supporting the production of rental homes for families whose incomes are too low to afford to rent decent homes in today’s market.” She continued that there are 90 million extremely low income renter households in the U.S. and only 62 million homes renting at prices they can afford.

Congratulations for being part of the winning National Low Income Housing Team helping solve the low income housing problem.

Adapted from nline.org, Memo to Members  
August 1, 2008

## LWVUS NEWS

### New Study

National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact Study has begun with a committee being formed to

produce background material to be posted on the LWVUS Web site in the next few months. As the NPV Study Committee proceeds with its work the LWVUS will provide consensus material to the local Leagues. The deadline for consensus forms will be May 1, 2009.

In addition, a Health Care Education Task Force has been initiated. Call Clara Fleming if you are interested in this.

There is a new Voter Service Activity Survey online from the LWVUS – this will help the National League quantify the work of local Leagues nationwide. LWVUS is also willing to provide information on Voters Guides.

Women’s Equality Day is August 26<sup>th</sup>, the 88<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day that the U.S. Constitution was amended to grant women the right to vote. LWVUS has a press template to assist you in getting out the word to the local media drawing attention to this special day.



## US ISSUES

September 26<sup>th</sup> is the date scheduled for the Congress to adjourn in preparation for the election. On the burner at this time is the question of Economic Recovery legislation and the Child Tax Credit legislation. We will keep you posted.

### *The Chicago Voter*

League of Women Voters of Chicago  
332 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1150  
Chicago, IL 60604  
312-939-5935, Ext 28  
Email – info@LWVChicago.org

Esta Kallen	President
Helene Gabelnick	Vice President
Pamela Stauffer	Vice President
Norma Braude	Secretary
Rochelle Riffer	Treasurer
Winnie Slusser	Voter Editor pro-tem