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League of Women Voters  
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*The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that does not support or oppose any political party or candidate but whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.*

**Program Planning – State and Local Positions**

at

The Meadows  
60 Nicoll Way

**Saturday, January 27 8:30- 11**

Come prepared to review the state positions and sort through ideas for local study.

**Immigration in Illinois – in Two sessions**

Session 1: Thursday, February 1, 2007, 7:30pm

Session 2: Thursday, February 8, 2007 – 7:30pm

LWVGE Immigration Study committee will present study material and the detailed issues on the impact of immigration to Illinois communities

at

The Glen Ellyn History Center  
800 Main St. (Main & Elm)

Across from Forest Glen School

## **President's Letter:**

Dear Members and Business Advertisers,

Since the last issue of the Voter (November-December 2006) we had a general and local election, in case you didn't hear the outcome of the Glen Ellyn election you should know congratulations are in order for League members Lucy Dallman (Library Board) and Meredith Zelewsky and Lee Crumbaugh (CBP Nominating committee), and for husband of member Cleo Burtis (Jim Comerford) for Village Trustee.

The Civic Betterment Party Town Meeting held on 12/2 was an interesting process and an education in local politics. Although we did not participate as a League several of us formed a citizen vote counting group to separate the task of vote counting from the party leadership.

Anne Zeidman and I helped two blind voters cast their ballots. The process of hearing a voter's selections aloud made me appreciate the technology of the TSX machines and my own privacy when casting a ballot. Perhaps the CBP should produce a more sophisticated ballot, or voting method to accommodate those who are unable to vote the standard ballot. The ballot process, our experience and advice from LWVIL will play a part in our study of the CBP process this spring.

As we move into 2007 LWVGE membership we will begin the year with **Program Planning** on the January 27th. Program Planning is the local leagues time to review the current LWVIL positions and agree either to support or offer topics for study to renew and revise positions. It was out of the program planning process that LWVGE spearheaded discussion of a state-wide study on immigration two years ago, which passed by a will of convention in 2005.. This serves as an example of the strength of voice of the local leagues. So bring your thoughts and opinions for a discussion of the state positions

Where we Stand, a booklet on state positions can be found on the [www.lwvil.org](http://www.lwvil.org) website.

Our February unit meetings (yes we will two **2/1 & 2/8**) are the presentation of the research and pro/con discussion of study questions from the state-wide immigration study. Come and learn about the research material and join in the discussion. These sessions are the local input on the state wide study. Please mark your calendars and attend these two consensus discussion sessions.

On **Saturday, February 3**, the State league will host its annual **Issues Briefing**. The focus of this briefing will be the **status of Voting in Illinois**, please see conference details later in this issue.

I hope you are enjoying the long awaited winter weather, and Chicago Bear Wins!

Let's make it a great League year!

Margaret DeLaRosa  
LWVGE President

## News from National – LWVUS

More detailed information on each of these topic headings can be found on [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

### **President Wilson's Update:**

Thank you to all the League members who filled out the 2006 Election Experience and Observation surveys and promoted them in your communities! This information was critical to informing my testimony last week before the EAC. We heard from League members across the country, and members predominately reported that the election system held up well in their communities, although some problems were noted. As I reported to the EAC, whether someone was well served as a voter in 2006 depended on where they voted, who they were, and what machine or ballot type they used.

### **Youth Caucus News**

Survey results from the **Convention 2006 Youth Caucus** are now available on the LWVUS Web site. [Click here to read the survey results](#), or [here](#) to learn more about the Youth Caucus.

### **Immigration Study News: Local Guidelines and Discussion List Now Available**

Many League members have never participated in, or have little experience with, a national study. For important tips and information about the current LWVUS Immigration Study process, see the new [Guidelines for the LWVUS Immigration Study at the Local Level](#). In addition, the Immigration Study Discussion List is now operational. [Click here](#) to subscribe to the LWV-Immigration and other sponsored lists. If you haven't yet set up a personal password, you will need to do so by registering at <https://www.lwv.webmembership.org/PreRegister.asp>.

### **Immigration Study: Resources Now Available to the Public**

We have launched a public page for the LWVUS Immigration Study and created a resource page for citizens interested in learning about our work. [Please click here](#) to view the public page, and feel free to share this quick and easy link to members of your League and your community! ([www.lwv.org/ImmigrationStudy](http://www.lwv.org/ImmigrationStudy))

### **Mark Your Calendar: 2007 Council Dates (NEW)**

The 2007 League of Women Voters Council will be held June 8th-11th in Washington, D.C. Please keep an eye out for much more information!

### **LWVUS Budget Committee Announcement (NEW)**

The League is proud to introduce the 2007-2008 off-board Budget Committee. Off-board committee members include Chair Laura Givens (GA), Shirley Eberly (NY, Former National Board Member) and Mary Merritt (MO State League President). This important committee will convene in February 2007.

### **2007 Advocacy and Education Priorities: We Welcome Your Input**

At our Board and Committee meetings on January 26-28, 2007, we will discuss and approve advocacy and education priorities for this year. We welcome the input of League leaders and members about the setting of priorities for action and education. To provide your input, please email or call the Board member who serves as Board Liaison to your

## News from National – LWVUS (continued)

State. Your Board Liaison's contact information is available on the member's section of the Web site or you may provide input to the Board Liaison through your State President.

### ELECTIONS

#### **2006 Voter Outreach Highlights**

Thanks to each of you for your hard work this election season! Below is a very brief picture of the reach LWVUS/EF had this cycle. We congratulate and thank all of you who worked so hard on providing voter service!

*VOTE411.org*: Between October 27<sup>th</sup> and November 7<sup>th</sup>:

- Over 1,000 state and local League voter service events (many of which were televised) were promoted
- Nearly 4,000 Web sites linked to VOTE411.org
- Nearly 1,000,000 visitors used VOTE411.org
- Over 4,000,000 pages were reviewed

*Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Project and the 5 Things You Need to Know on Election Day Campaign*

- Nearly 1,500,000 cards were distributed across the country
- Onerous photo identification procedures were defeated in many states, and Leagues worked to hold elections officials accountable for maintaining accurate statewide voter registration lists

*Voters Personal Experience Survey*

- Over 3,000 responses have been submitted thus far.
- Keep an eye out for information regarding responses.

#### **Public Advocacy for Voter Protection – Final Project Update**

The year-long grant funded Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) project is complete! Thanks to the extensive efforts by Leagues in the six project states – FL, GA, MO, OH, PA and WI – the project goals of protecting at-risk communities of voters from practices that would disenfranchise them, like onerous voter identification rules and complex statewide voter registration list procedures, were successfully met.

The PAVP project helped support state League activities to defeat proposals to require photo ID at the polls in GA, MO, PA and WI. In addition, the program helped ensure that voters' records in FL and PA were still included in the statewide voter registration list even if there was a failed data match. PAVP also supported state League efforts in

## News from National – LWVUS (continued)

### **ELECTIONS (continued):**

FL and OH to remove onerous restrictions on voter registration drives. Lastly, voters in all six states were given a plethora of national, state and local League voter information—from multilingual materials to individual state “how to” vote brochures/cards – both directly and through media outreach. Conversations are underway with the funder about the possibility of creating a similar project in 2007.

### **EAC Pollworker Guidebook**

With funding from the Election Assistance Commission, the LWVEF, the Pollworker Institute, and the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) have been working for over a year to create a pollworker recruitment, training and retention guidebook. After months of research and piloting the guidebook in selected jurisdictions during the 2006 election cycle, a draft has been presented to the EAC for review. We will let you know when the guidebook is available for distribution.

### **Capturing the Overseas and Military Voting Experience (Last chance!)**

A League partner, the Overseas Vote Foundation (OVF), is conducting a 2006 Post Election Survey for the millions of U.S. citizens and active duty military who live outside the country. The survey will be open **ONLY** through the end of December. OVF invites U.S. citizens and active duty military to [sign up now](#), and receive an invitation to participate in the OVF 2006 Post Election Survey! Each survey link is uniquely generated, can be used only once, and cannot be forwarded. We encourage Leagues to share this resource with voters who would benefit from this survey.

## **ADVOCACY**

### **League Calls for Action on Global Climate Change (NEW)**

Last week the LWVUS joined other organizations in [calling for immediate action](#) to curb the worst effects of global warming by enforcing reductions in global warming pollution and promoting clean and efficient sources of energy.

### **League Raises Concerns about Warrantless Wiretapping**

The League continues to work against congressional proposals that would “rubber stamp” the National Security Agency’s warrantless wiretapping program by expanding the domestic surveillance powers of the President. Please [tell your Senator](#) to vote “no” on this legislation, or read the League [letter](#) recently sent to Senate Judiciary Chair Arlen Specter (R PA) raising concerns about S. 4051, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Oversight and Resource Enhancement Act.

### **Your Help is Needed on D.C. Voting Rights!**

We continue to need your help in ensuring that all citizens of the District of Columbia are granted their full voting rights in the House of Representatives! [Take action today](#) by urging your Representative to support the D.C. Voting Rights Act.

## News from National – LWVUS (continued):

### ADVOCACY (continued)

#### **The D.C. Voting Rights Education Project Is Off and Running!**

Leagues across the country that are participating in the D.C. Voting Rights Education project are hitting the ground running in 2007. The LWV of Southwest Santa Clara Valley, CA, a grant recipient, held their first event yesterday in Saratoga, CA.

Their “D.C. Democracy Project” was a family program featuring children’s stories about voting rights and how democracy works, followed by a hands-on activity to help California children learn about senators, democracy and Washington, D.C. To read more about this event, [click here](#). There are still some \$1,000 grants available for this timely and exciting project! To learn more, please contact Project Specialist [Robyn Kurland](#)

#### **League Marks Bill of Rights Day**

LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson this week [released a statement](#) on the importance of protecting civil liberties on this Bill of Rights Day (December 15th). We encourage Leagues to customize this release for use in their communities.

#### **Staff News: Angela Canterbury**

It is with some sadness that we announce the departure of Grassroots Lobbyist Angela Canterbury from our staff. Angela is moving on to a position with our partner on many issues, Public Citizen. As field director for their Congress Watch division, she will continue to work on issues of mutual concern with the League. After Wednesday, January 10, please be in touch with Betsy Lawson ([blawson@lwg.org](mailto:blawson@lwg.org) or 202-263-1329) regarding federal-level advocacy and LWVUS positions. Please join us in thanking Angela for her service with the League and wishing her well in her new job.

### GLOBAL DEMOCRACY

#### **Engaging Women for Active Citizenship in Kenya**

We are looking for Leagues interested in hosting women from Kenya. The national office will be submitting a proposal to the Office of Citizen Exchanges at the U.S. Department of State in response to its recent request for proposals for the new program, *Engaging Women for Active Citizenship*. This project will promote civic engagement among Kenyan women and representatives of marginalized groups, encourage them to participate in the policy-making process, enhance leadership skills, and provide strategies to develop self-sustaining civil society organizations. If your League is interested in participating in this new two-year program, please contact Pilar Velasquez ([pvelasquez@lwg.org](mailto:pvelasquez@lwg.org)) and/or Zaida Arguedas ([zarguedas@lwg.org](mailto:zarguedas@lwg.org)) no later than February 2, 2007. The tentative timeframe of the project is September 2007 to July 2009.

#### **League Promotes Gender Equality in the Ukraine**

This month, LWVUS Deputy Executive Director Zaida Arguedas visited Ukraine and took part in a series of events designed to encourage female participation in seeking elected office, lobbying, engaging in social and political activism, and furthering Ukraine’s progress in accomplishing the UN’s Millennium Development Goals.

## News from National – LWVUS (continued):

### **GLOBAL DEMOCRACY (continued)**

Arguedas's activities, sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, included a speaking engagement at the Embassy's Women in Governance conference as well as a number of training workshops and discussion groups with female elected officials, NGO representatives and community leaders. [Read more about the League's Global Democracy programs.](#)

### **Guidelines Now Available: Russian and Ukrainian Visitors Program**

We are happy to announce that guidelines for League participation in the 2007 Russian and Ukrainian Visitors Program are now available by [clicking here](#). Please contact [Pilar Velasquez](#) with any questions.

### **League Headlines “Stick to the Issues Campaign” in Abuja, Nigeria (NEW)**

LWVUS Second Vice President Sarah Diefendorf recently traveled to Abuja, Nigeria to conduct trainings on organizing debates. Diefendorf also served as a keynote speaker at the launching ceremony of the “Stick to the Issues Campaign” organized by Nigerian civic organizations in preparation for Nigeria’s April Presidential, Gubernatorial and Legislative elections. The initiative is funded by USAID’s flagship Advocacy, Awareness and Civil Empowerment (ADVANCE) project.

### **International Committees**

The Global Democracy Program is seeking information about state and local Leagues that have international committees. We are interested in learning the name of the chair or leader, issues of interest, activities during the past year, and how long has this committee been in existence. Please send your contact information to [Zaida Arguedas](#).

### **OTHER**

### **Search the Web using GoodSearch.com and raise funds for LWVEF**

GoodSearch is a new search engine that donates 50% of its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to designated charities. A penny per search only adds up if all League members and friends use GoodSearch with LWVEF as their designated charity.

GoodSearch recommends that participating nonprofits have a supporter base of 1,000 or more and estimates that such charities will receive \$7,300 at the end of the year if their supporters search just twice a day. The more people who use the site, the more money we’ll earn. Please visit [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) today, designate the League of Women Voters Education Fund - LWV (Washington, DC) and start searching the Web!

### **Climate Change Taskforce Now Seeking Applications**

The LWVUS is now seeking applications for a Climate Change Taskforce (CCT). This taskforce will be established to use the expertise of our membership to provide information and assistance to the LWVUS Board and staff on issues pertaining to climate change. [Please click here for more information](#) and to fill out the application. Contact [Sarah Diefendorf](#) with any questions.

**News from National – LWVUS (continued):****OTHER (continued)**

**Sunshine Week (March 11 -13, 2007)** Since 2007 will be the third year with national recognition of the importance of transparency and freedom of information in government, many Leagues will want to take advantage of the visibility associated with this week to put on public events. Sunshine Week seeks to enlighten and empower citizens to play an active role in their government at all levels, and to give them access to information that makes their lives better and their communities stronger. Journalists around the county are being encouraged to report on this topic during that week. A national web site, [www.sunshineweek.org](http://www.sunshineweek.org), provides suggestions for local activities, and names of state coordinators. LWVUS is partnering with other organizations in a kick-off event for Sunshine Week on March 12th at the National Press Club in Washington D.C. The program, entitled “Closed Doors; Open Democracies?”, will include a panel discussion, audience questions, and ideas for action, and will be webcast to sites around the country. The purpose is to share this discussion of national experts with local communities, providing them with material to educate the public on this important issue. In addition to these activities, The American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE) is coordinating a national freedom of information audit, whose results will be released during Sunshine Week 2007. During an information audit, requestors visit pre-selected government offices, ask for copies of particular public documents (in this case, documents related to emergency preparedness) and then record how well the agency responds. The project plans to pair newspapers with local civic groups in order to engage citizens in the audit process.

**Off-Board Technology Committee Now Seeking Applications**

[Please download the application form here](#) and email to Sarah Diefendorf at [sdief@aol.com](mailto:sdief@aol.com).

**New Book: *Momentum: Igniting Social Change in the Connected Age***

New from author Alison Fine is a book titled *Momentum: Igniting Social Change in the Connected Age*. The book is a primer for activism in the new "Connected Age" of technology. It provides a framework for positive social change, explains what the new digital tools are and do, and helps social activists change the way they work to engage more people in more meaningful ways. To learn more about this helpful resource, [please click here](#).



**News from State – LWVIL:****LWVIL Annual Issues Briefing – Saturday, February 3, 2007****Loyola University Chicago – Water Tower Campus: Loyola Law Center**

Rubloff Auditorium, 25 East Pearson, Chicago

**Registration, Breakfast and Networking starts at 8:30am**

Issue Programs: 9:30 – Noon:

The State of Voting in Illinois

LWV Advocacy &amp; Front-Burner Issues: Updates on state Fiscal Policy, Assault Weapons Ban &amp; Environmental Policy.

**Luncheon:** Noon-1pm**Workshops:** 1pm – 3pm (select one):

- Judicial Independence
- Criminal Justice
- How to Take Action with the League

Registration is due: January 19<sup>th</sup>: Cost \$45 full day, \$25 morning session only; \$30 afternoon only (includes lunch)State convention will be held on Friday, June 22 through Sunday, June 24, 2007 at the Holiday Inn Matteson. [www.holiday-inn/mattesonil](http://www.holiday-inn/mattesonil)

The 2007 Phonathon will be held from February 19-March 19, 2007. Local Leagues will receive 10% of all donations received.

## **LWVGE News & Activities:**

### **Program Planning - Saturday, January 27 8:30 AM at The Meadows**

Since it is a State convention year the objective our LWVGE Program Planning brunch is to review and discuss LWVIL current positions and action focus.

Program planning is the method/process we use to shape the policy of our LWV organization.

This year our focus is positions and action focus of our state league organization.

The program planning process consists of three steps:

#### 1. A review the current LWVIL positions

Existing positions outlined in Where we Stand provide the basis for League action, including lobbying effort.

#### 2. Make recommendations on current positions

#### 3. Make recommendations for a new study and/or new action focus item.

Program planning is the tool for local league involvement in shaping the LWVIL public policy program.

To get your own copy of Where we Stand go to [www.lwvil.org](http://www.lwvil.org)

## **Membership**

We are in the process of updating the national database. If you have not been receiving the Voter, please contact Margaret DeLaRosa at [mdelarosa@ameritech.net](mailto:mdelarosa@ameritech.net) with your email address. This will enable quick delivery of calls to action, and timely updates from national.

## **Immigration Study**

Study packets distributed by the state league are in the hands of our study committee members. If you would like to view any of the underlying information of this study please go to the [www.lwvil.org](http://www.lwvil.org) website and you can print almost any document contained in the official study packet.

As you begin to gather your thoughts on this issue please refer to the Consensus Discussion Questions, these questions will be discussed during the two meetings in February.

**LWVIL Immigration Study  
Consensus Questions Discussion  
Fall 2006/Winter 2007**

*Please note: We would like to point out that some of the issues looked at in this study, especially in the areas of education, housing and healthcare, are already covered under the League's broad social policies.*

**1) Should the State of Illinois promote and fund local community efforts to provide orientation and counseling services for immigrants regardless of documentation status?**

Possible examples are:

- assimilation in the community
- English as Second Language (ESL)
- financial counseling
- housing and child care services or referrals
- preventive health care
- emergency health care
- transportation assistance

Discussion point for consensus question:

Immigrants often face significant challenges learning to assimilate and to go about their daily lives after relocating to the United States. The Skokie Library, Family Services of South Lake County and other local groups and organizations in Illinois provide services similar to those listed above. However, these services are not available in other communities.

**2) Should the State of Illinois promote and provide funding for educational programs and materials that seek to inform immigrant workers, both documented and undocumented, of their rights in the workplace?**

**Discussion point for consensus question:**

Undocumented workers are frequently the victims of exploitation in the workplace because they are frequently employed in "sweatshop" industries that violate one or more state or federal labor laws. While federal labor law currently provides that employers may not lawfully employ undocumented workers, the practice is unquestionably commonplace, especially in certain industries. Under current Supreme Court law, unlawfully discharged undocumented workers are not entitled to reinstatement or back pay. They also live in fear of retaliation and deportation if they inform authorities or speak up regarding inhumane or exploitative working conditions. However, undocumented immigrants are legally permitted to unionize. While immigrant workers are generally entitled to the same protections against anti-discrimination as those afforded to U.S. citizens in the workplace, they may not be aware of these protections.

**LWVIL Immigration Study  
Consensus Questions Discussion  
Fall 2006/Winter 2007**

3) Should the State of Illinois:

- a. provide “driving certificates” or some other form of proof of driving validation to undocumented drivers, allowing those drivers to drive legally and ensuring that they would have passed a state driving test?
- b. permit and encourage auto insurance providers to issue insurance coverage to holders of such driving certificates?

**Discussion point for consensus question:**

Under the 2005 federal Real ID Law, by 2008 states may only issue driver’s licenses to citizens or legal immigrants if such licenses are to be valid for official federal purposes (e.g. getting on an airplane). If the legal immigrant applicant is in the United States on a temporary visa, the license can only be considered valid for the duration of that visa. Among other provisions, the law required the states to adopt standardized features for driver’s licenses. It also required the states to validate citizenship or legal immigration status of the license applicant, to verify that the documents used for such validation were legitimate and then to store copies of those documents for seven to ten years depending on whether they were paper or electronic.

4) Should the State of Illinois require financial institutions doing business in Illinois to accept as legal forms of identification tax identification numbers and such documents as consular cards and passports issued by countries of origin?

**Discussion point for consensus question:**

Proof of identity documents, including driver’s licenses and social security numbers are now required by many financial institutions in order to open savings or checking accounts. As a result, immigrants are reluctant to use these financial institutions and, consequently, are targeted by criminals who know that they maintain their savings in their residence or carry large sums of cash. In addition, institutions such as currency exchanges and other check-cashing outlets charge higher fees for transferring funds to family in foreign countries. Under the provisions of the federal Real ID law, by 2008, alternative forms of identification will become even more important.

Illinois has a law that permits mortgages at less than market rate to be made to undocumented persons who cannot get traditional mortgages from banks due to lack of identification. However, that law does not require financial institutions to accept the consular card. Many financial institutions are beginning to do so in order to reap the gains of this substantial untapped source of business and profits (for example, only roughly nine percent of Mexican undocumented persons currently have access to banking services).

**LWVIL Immigration Study  
Consensus Questions Discussion  
Fall 2006/Winter 2007**

**5)** Should the State of Illinois create a set-aside fund to help local taxing bodies offset the costs of the use of public education and emergency healthcare by undocumented immigrants and their families?

**Discussion point for consensus question:**

Some studies show that undocumented immigrants burden local economies by educating their youth at public schools (K-12) and by their use of emergency healthcare services. Many undocumented immigrants pay state and federal taxes that are not necessarily redirected to cover the costs of the services that they have utilized. Moreover, employers pay unemployment insurance taxes on their behalf although the undocumented are ineligible to use these services, and undocumented immigrants often do not collect any tax refunds that may be owed to them. Other policymakers argue that the economic contribution made by undocumented workers far exceeds the cost of the services that they consume.

**6)** Should the State of Illinois empower local communities and municipalities to allow:

- a.** documented immigrants the right to vote in certain local elections, provided that those immigrants have proof of residency?
- b.** undocumented immigrants the right to vote in certain local elections, provided that those immigrants have proof of residency?

Such elections might include the local school board, city council or park district, or other taxing bodies.

**Discussion point for consensus question:**

Proponents of immigrant voting rights argue that that right supports the democratic principle of the universal franchise, is not expressly prohibited by the U.S. Constitution, and is consistent with the democratic principle of "no taxation without representation." Furthermore, immigrants pay a variety of taxes, and voting may stimulate an interest and skill in participatory government while immigrants must wait, sometimes for as long as ten years, to become citizens.

**LWVIL Immigration Study  
Consensus Questions Discussion  
Fall 2006/Winter 2007**

Opponents of immigrant voting rights argue that the Illinois constitution requires U.S. citizenship for voter registration in the state. (the Illinois legislature approved an exception to allow non-citizens the right to vote in Chicago's local school council elections upon proof of district residency.) Opponents also argue that non-citizens could vote collectively against the best interests of the community in favor of narrow interests that require extensive general funding. Lastly, opponents argue that immigrant voting rights could undermine the incentive to become a citizen and contribute to election fraud.

7) Should states or localities enact legislation or ordinances to:

- a. penalize landlords for renting to undocumented immigrants?
- b. prohibit the issuance of business permits to the undocumented?

**Discussion point for consensus question:**

Hazleton, Pennsylvania and some other communities have involved themselves in the broader national debate on immigration by approving ordinances to prohibit undocumented immigrants from renting apartments and securing business licenses.

8) Should state and local police be deputized so that they can enforce immigration laws in Illinois?

**Discussion point for consensus question:**

In 2002, the U.S. Justice Department confirmed the “inherent authority” of state and local police to enforce federal immigration laws. In addition, various legislative proposals under consideration in Congress would require that state and local police enforce immigration laws or lose access to certain federal funds. On the other hand, some states, cities and counties have laws on the books that limit local involvement in the enforcement of civil (non-criminal) immigration laws. That said, some states, including Florida and South Carolina have taken steps to deputize their police to enforce immigration laws. (Source: State and Local Police Enforcement of Federal Immigration Law, American Immigration Lawyers Association, 3/06).

Because the legal status of an immigrant may be revealed during the course of a routine traffic stop where identification documents are needed, this enhanced police power is a serious concern for immigrants. In addition, some police departments argue against the proposal because they are eager to maintain good relationships with immigrant communities, lack the proper training, and are already overstretched with other duties. Cook County Commissioner Roberto Maldonado has proposed a non-binding resolution to designate Cook County as a “sanctuary” for undocumented immigrants. The resolution

suggests that Cook County employers be discouraged from inquiring about immigration status during everyday interactions with persons in the community. They have taken this step to help ensure that untrained and inexperienced county employees do not become involved in immigration matters. Proponents of leaving immigration matters to federal authorities argue that immigrants need to know that they can approach local authorities and police, for assistance or to report criminal activity, without fear of deportation or other unintended consequences.

### **LWVGE News & Activities (continued):**

#### **Thank You's:**

Thanks to our members who did holiday shopping at Ten Thousand Villages on 11/30. It was a fun night.

Thanks to Midge and Dan Anderson for hosting our Holiday Gathering. It was an evening filled with great political discussion, and lots of good things to eat.

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*League-sponsored events of interest:*  
**January-February 2007**

Thurs. Jan 18	Board Meeting	Anderson Residence - 7:30pm
Sat. Jan 27	Program Planning Brunch - State positions	The Meadows 8:30am
Thurs. Feb 1	Immigration Study Consensus Mtg. -1	G.E. History Center - 7:30pm
Sat. Feb. 3	LWVIL Issues Briefing	Loyola University 8:30am Water Tower Campus
Thurs. Feb 8	Immigration Study Consensus Mtg. -2	G.E. History Center -7:30pm
Thurs. Feb. 15	Board Meeting - Immigration Committee Presentation	7:30pm - Civic Center



**Membership:** The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots, multi-issue, activist organization. It is organized in all 50 states as well as in the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and Guam. Any citizen over 18, male or female, may become a member of the League of Women Voters. Educated, connected citizens keep communities prosperous and nations healthy.

Stay tuned into your community. Join, or rejoin the League of Women Voters of Glen Ellyn. Help involve citizens in their government. Register Voters, develop relevant issue programs, candidates forums, its all here with League.

## 2006-2007 Registration/Renewal Form

**Sign me up for the Glen Ellyn League of Women Voters!** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Renew my membership in the Glen Ellyn League of Women Voters!** \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** League of Women Voters- Glen Ellyn, P.O. Box 2391, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138 with \$60.00 dues for Individual or \$90.00 family membership for 2006-2007.