

# LWV<sup>®</sup>

Join/Support

January 2022

## *The Voter*

The League of Women Voters of Glen Ellyn



Greetings!

One year after the attack on the United States Capital, the LWVGE held a Vigil on January 6, 2022 in front of the Glen Ellyn Civic Center for a “Day of Remembrance and Action.” The vigil focused on the support of democracy and promotion of voting rights -- in particular the encouragement of citizens to contact their legislators encouraging passage of federal voting legislation: *The Freedom to Vote Act and The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.*

Speakers (ALL members of LWVGE) included Co-President Sarah Allen, Rev. George Smith from Saint Mark’s Episcopal Church who offered insightful words and an ecumenical prayer, Voter Service Co-Chairs Bernie Laszewski and Erica Nelson speaking on voter rights, and Sania Irwin representing LWVUS, sharing actions that individual citizens can take to support voter rights and fight voter suppression. If you were unable to attend, the LWVGE Facebook page has a **YouTube video link** so that you can listen to and share these remarks. You may also review Sania's important action steps to preserve democracy below.



Many thanks to all the members who shopped at our Annual Fundraiser at *10,000 Villages* (making it our most successful ever, raising \$827!) on December 2, 2021. Around 40 members joined together afterwards at the home of Sarah Allen, truly enjoying in-person

socializing once again and welcoming two new members who also attended a New Member Orientation. Good times with raised glasses were had by all!

There are a couple of important meetings coming up in the next few weeks that members are encouraged to attend: the Program Planning Meeting on Saturday, February 5 and the Civic Betterment Party Study Consensus Meeting on Thursday, March 3. The work at these meetings is at the core of what the LWV does. Look for details of these meetings in this Voter and mark your calendars now so you won't miss out.

We can't say enough about our Board of Directors, staying on top of issues that affect us locally, educating and communicating to membership and the wider community, and keeping us on track with our goals. Many thanks to such a strong team!

For newer League members, it is often difficult to discern how your engagement in government issues matters. The Village of Glen Ellyn recently purchased property on Roosevelt Road with the expressed intent to include affordable housing. This issue has been part of LWVGE local advocacy for many years. See the article by LWVGE Director of League Issues Joyce Hothan for important information. Please write a letter to the Board of Trustees about the need for affordable housing in Glen Ellyn. Your Voice Matters!

Stay warm and safe this winter. Thank you for your continued engagement; we look forward to seeing you soon.

Working to Empower Voters,  
Sarah Allen and Michelle Thorsell, Co-Presidents

[Visit Our Website](#)

## Holiday Celebration 2021

Thank you to Ten Thousand Villages for supporting our annual December Holiday Fundraiser. It was a busy shopping night— our members brought their holiday spirit, mingled (safely) and LWVGE raised over \$800. Well done, members!

After members shopped in the store and online, there was a holiday gathering at the home of Co-President Sarah Allen. Her lovely home was decked out for the holidays, including her horse-head wreath.



*Ten Thousand Villages purchases added up to a nice donation for LWVGE.*

Thank you to all of our enthusiastic shoppers!!



Enjoying the evening are members Bonnie Gehris sitting with Julie, David and Miles Evans. (Look closely to spot the horse wreath greeting guests at Sarah's front door!)

## 2021 Santa Letters: Creative Kids Make Their Pitch

The Glen Ellyn Chamber of Commerce, with 'elf power' supplied by LWVGE and other local non-profits, delivered smiles and an autographed letter from Santa to local area children who wrote to Santa. Nearly 1000 letters were 'mailed' by children using the dedicated Santa mailbox in downtown Glen Ellyn.

"After a year and a half of the pandemic, the children were ready for the holiday break and to make their pitch to Santa for what gifts they would like under the tree," said Dawn Smith, Glen Ellyn resident and Executive Director of the Chamber. "Our downtown stores and restaurants are still recovering, so this program also worked to increase foot traffic downtown," she added.

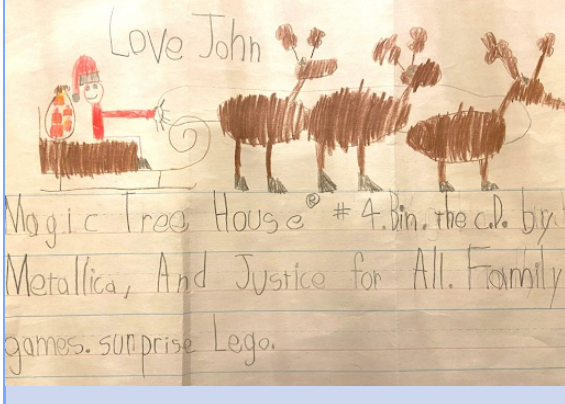
"The letters from children were less about the pandemic this year, and more about laying out their case for being on the good list, or offering helpful suggestions to Santa for Christmas gifts," said Karin Daly, VP of Communications for LWVGE who helped sort letters and coordinate volunteers. Five-year-old Lilly from Glen Ellyn admitted that she had "not been a good girl on Monday or Wednesday," but promised she'd be better "for 30 days." Charelle asked for a "real, magical phone" and Reese was clear that she had been good, so pitched Santa for "a puppy AND a mermaid." Added Daly, "Given current infrastructure issues, we were concerned for Santa about some of those requests."



Parker was looking forward to a great surprise of Santa's choosing.







Above's a charming Santa portrait by one of his biggest fans. And here is Santa and his reindeer delivering goodies for John, including "Justice for All!"

A perfect League wish too.

"Many children took time to draw detailed pictures for Santa such as Parker, who drew himself opening up a surprise gift and being happy with "insert what you got me here" from Santa.

The Chamber also extended their thanks to the League's Santa letter-writers. "We literally could not have done it without you," said Chamber Executive Director Smith.

Submitted by Karin Daly, VP of Communications

## Solemn Day Honors Democracy

### January 6 Vigil in Glen Ellyn

On January 6, 2022, about 70 people, members of LWVGE and the community, along with members of Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW group braved the cold weather to stand up for democracy – reflecting on and remembering the events of January 6, 2021 at a candlelight vigil outside the Glen Ellyn Civic Center.

A call for action to restore and protect voting rights across the country was presented. Those gathered heard from Rev. George Smith of St. Mark's Episcopal Church of Glen Ellyn; Sarah Allen, LWVGE Co-President; Voter Services Co-Chairs Erica Nelson and Bernadette Laszewski and LWVUS Board Member, Sania Irwin. Submitted by Karen Schultz, Media Relations



Karen Schulz (center) and local AAUW members braved the elements for voting rights.





*Bernadette Laszewski, Erica Nelson and Michelle Thorsell represented us well.*



*Lighting candles for democracy were members Kim Reed, Erica Nelson, Terra Costa Howard and Mary Ozog.*

## Steps Suggested by our own Sania Irwin

Our nation is at a crucial turning point, and how we proceed will determine the fate of our Democracy. We all have a role to play. Here are four suggestions on what you can do:

- **Please call your U.S. Senators to pass the Freedom to Vote Act – a transformative piece of legislation that will protect and expand the right to vote, decrease the influence of money in politics, and curb partisan gerrymandering.** The introduction of the bill is proof that our voices have power in the halls of the U.S. Senate. Your continued engagement is how the bill will get across the finish line.
- **Write and call the White House, urging it to harness its substantial power and influence to lead the fight for voting reforms – to get the Freedom to Vote Act, and also the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (JLVRAA) passed and signed into law.** The JLVRAA will restore the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and ensure oversight, accountability, and justice in our Democracy.
- **Check your voter registration status, and tell your family and friends to do the same.** Voting is your voice.
- **We rely on poll workers to ensure that our elections proceed safely and efficiently.**

If you are able, volunteer to be a poll worker – you will get an inside look at how our Democracy functions, while helping our community make its voice heard. January 6 was the most serious threat to American Democracy in our lifetimes. It was also the day Capitol Police Officer Eugene Goodman faced the insurrectionist mob, and redirected them for about 85 seconds, to save lives, and maybe Democracy itself. Our system of government may be fractured, but our will is strong, strong enough to not just protect, but better our system.

*"Freedom is precious, but it is not free," Irwin stressed. "Democracy needs defending."*

Seeking New Election Judges

## Election Judge Application Information – DuPage County

**Election Judge Qualifications**

Election Judges oversee the voting process and assist voters in voting. The qualifications of a Judge are being a

## Election Judges Needed in DuPage!

Help Protect The Right to Vote.

Everyone is encouraged to apply – 16 year olds+ are eligible for this paid position.

[www.dupageco.org/election/Get\\_Involved/37071/](http://www.dupageco.org/election/Get_Involved/37071/)



citizen of the United States; being a registered voter in DuPage County; being of good repute and character; being able to speak, read, and write the English language; being skilled in the four fundamental rules of arithmetic; being of good understanding and capable. A candidate, whether one's name appears on the ballot or as a valid write-in candidate, or an elected Precinct Committeeperson is not eligible to be a Judge.

Pay: \$130 base pay plus \$30 for Judges that complete training. Supply and pick-up return are \$15.00 each way plus mileage. Hours: Election Day starting at 5:00 am until approximately 9:00 pm  
Election judge application <https://www.dupageco.org/Election/JudgeApplication/>

### College Election Judges

Illinois Statutes provide the opportunity for individuals who are not entitled to vote to be appointed as a Judge if they are currently enrolled in a community college or a public or private Illinois university or college and have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 [apply here](#)

Pay: \$130 base pay plus \$30 for Judges that complete training. Supply and pick-up return are \$15.00 each way plus mileage. Hours: Election Day starting at 5:00 am until approximately 9:00 pm

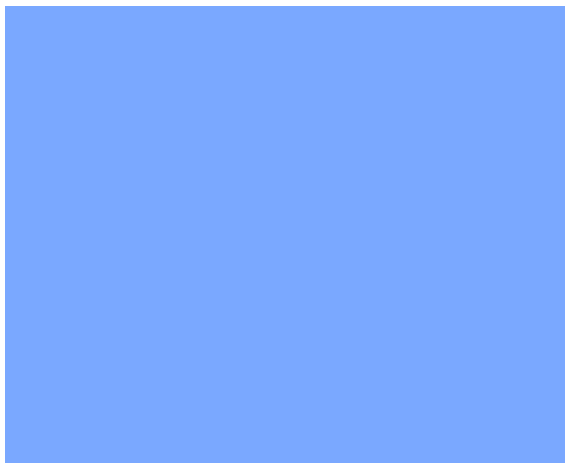
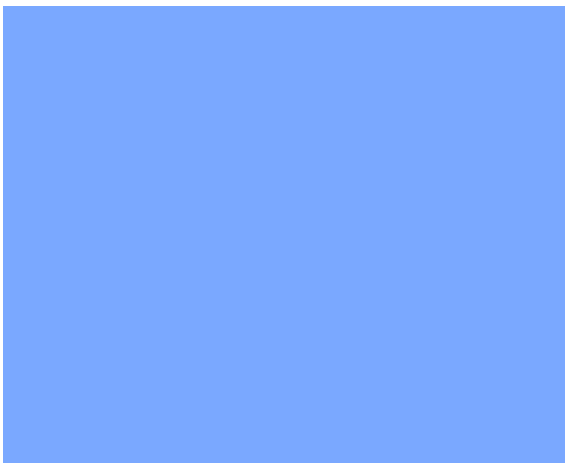
### High School Student Election Judge (First Judge)

Illinois Statutes provide the opportunity for high school juniors and seniors who are not entitled to vote to be appointed as Judges if they live in DuPage County and have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. If you are 16 years old or older, go to [https://www.dupageco.org/Election/Get\\_Involved/37071/](https://www.dupageco.org/Election/Get_Involved/37071/) and fill out the nomination form.

Pay: \$130 base pay plus \$30 for Judges that complete training. Supply and pick-up return are \$15.00 each way plus mileage. Hours: Election Day starting at 5:00 am until approximately 9:00 pm

For more information go to the [DuPage Election Judge website](#) or email the election commission at [electionjudges@dupageco.org](mailto:electionjudges@dupageco.org)

Submitted by Erica Nelson, Voter Services







### **A League Legacy Gift from Charlotte Swett Walter**

LWVGE was thrilled to recently receive a notice of a bequest of \$5000 from the estate of long-time League member Charlotte Swett Walter. Charlotte was a true activist in Glen Ellyn, her home of 65 years where she raised 5 children.

Widowed early, Charlotte managed as a single parent while getting her MBA at the University Of Chicago. No small feat! She remarried, created a blended family and continued living in Glen Ellyn.

League leadership recently had a chance to talk to Charlotte's daughter, Valerie. She recalled that her mother was a journalist, and remembers her writing pamphlets for the village and calling politicians and other League members about issues of the day.



Valerie credits her ability to negotiate as a lawyer in Boston to those days as a child listening to her mother on the phone involved in local politics!

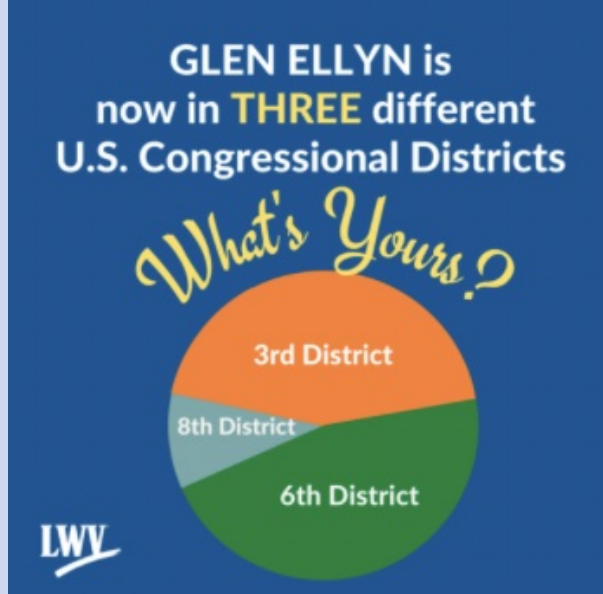
Charlotte was also an election judge, voter registrar and was active in the Methodist Church, the GE Food Pantry and the Historical Society.

One of her passions was encouraging young people to register and vote. Charlotte was born in 1921, just as women won the right to vote.

On a recent birthday, she was asked what advice she would like to bestow. She answered "Always Vote!" The LWVGE Board is determining the best way to honor this gift and her legacy. Charlotte's obituary can be read [here](#).

Submitted by Karin Daly, VP of  
Communications

## **New Federal Congressional Districts**

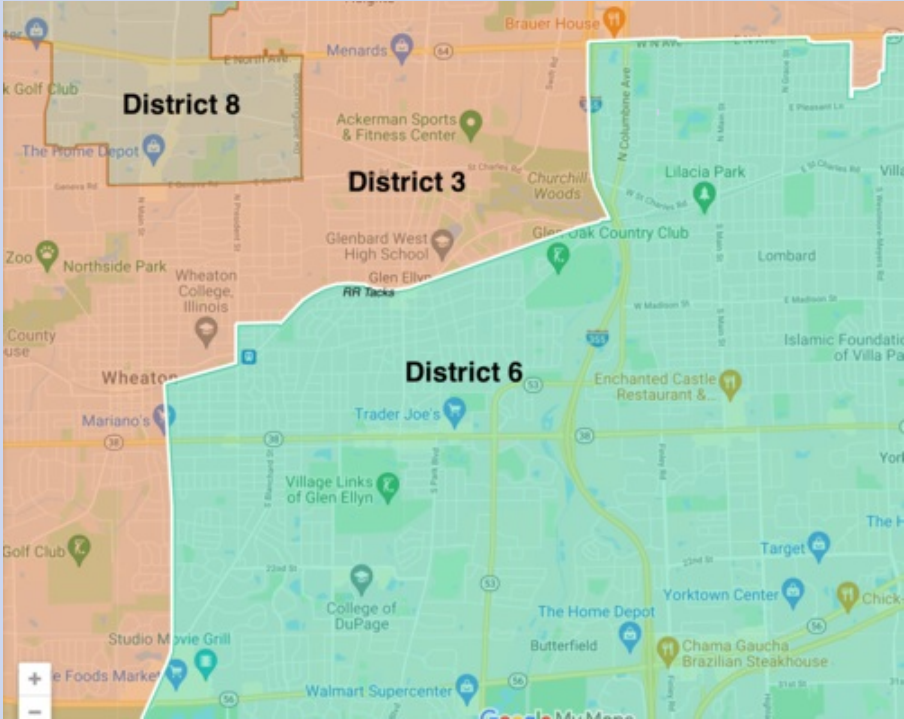


### What is your district?

Illinois completed its redistricting process per federal law after the decennial census and created all new congressional districts. Due to population shifts, Illinois has lost one congressional seat.

Each district is represented by one Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Starting with the June 28, 2022, primary election Glen Ellyn will be divided among three different congressional districts. See the color-coded map below (click on the red link) to confirm your new district. *(Note: It is currently marked “Draft 4,” but it is the final redistricting, approved by Gov. Pritzker.)*

We need all LWVGE members to join the effort to educate our community about these redistricting changes. See the **map change here**.



**ILLINOIS 3RD DISTRICT --THE NORTH HALF OF GLEN ELLYN, NORTH OF RR TRACKS SHOWN IN ORANGE)**



**ILLINOIS 6TH DISTRICT --THE SOUTH HALF OF GLEN ELLYN (SHOWN IN GREEN)  
ILLINOIS 8TH DISTRICT -- SMALL PORTION OF GLEN ELLYN (SHOWN IN SAGE  
GREEN) (CORNER OF GENEVA ROAD/DERBY GLEN SUBDIVISION)**

Submitted by Bernie Laszewski and Erica Nelson , Voter Services

## **Time For YOUR ACTION on Affordable Housing in Glen Ellyn!**



Having one luxury apartment complex after another luxury apartment complex approved for development in our village has been disconcerting to say the least. Our local League has championed the need for affordable housing in this community for YEARS with little success. We finally see a real possibility to change that.

### **This is Our Moment to Speak Up**

The League position on Affordable Housing is very clear and has guided our efforts for years. It states in part that, "Safe, quality, affordable housing is essential to the health and well-being of individuals, families and the community." We now stand at a critical juncture. The Village has closed on the purchase of the Roosevelt Road hotel properties' site with the goal of redevelopment. Being situated along the Roosevelt Road Corridor, the property parcel facing Taft Avenue is ideal for workforce housing for persons employed nearby. This development is an important way to show support of our businesses that need the workers in need of affordable housing.

The newly hired housing consultant from the firm of Kon Savoy presented the "Design Charette Process" they will utilize with the trustees to identify **ALL** possible types of developments.

**An important note here is that at the time the Village Trustees agreed to buy this parcel of land, they did so with the *expressed goal* of specifically redeveloping some of the parcel as affordable housing.**

The results of the "Design Charette Process" will then be presented at public meetings before the Plan Commission and the Village Board where public comment can be made. However, providing input to Trustees proactively **BEFORE** the idea development stage rather than **AFTER** is of CRITICAL importance.

**Please send an email to our Village Trustees asking them to remember to prioritize the intent for which they purchased this property...TO BUILD MUCH NEEDED AFFORDABLE HOUSING!** Click the Village Trustees button below to express your concerns. This feedback will be sent to all the Trustees.

**Please, ACT before Feb. 4. WE NEED ALL OUR VOICES TO BE HEARD!**

Submitted by Joyce Hothan, League Issues Director

**Glen Ellyn Village Trustees**

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## **Membership Update**

We currently have 197 paid members, including three new members who joined in December and January.

Please help welcome:

Suzanne Berg  
515 Kenilworth Ave  
Glen Ellyn 60137  
503-360-7902

Anna Harcharik  
293 Oak Street  
Glen Ellyn 60137  
630-880-1223

Patti Vendegna  
31 E. Grove St  
Apt 607  
Lombard 60148  
630-639-0828

Submitted by: Judy Gervase, Membership



### Primary Date Moved to JUNE 28

Mark your calendars! The 2022 primary has been moved to June 28 given delays in receiving census data due to the pandemic. Up-to-date data is used to draw legislative districts.

The new June date gives everyone plenty of time to register to vote or update your registration if you have moved. Register or check your registration at [dupageco.org/election/](https://dupageco.org/election/)

### Glen Ellyn Selection of Village and Library Board Offices Study

The LWVGE is restudying the 2008 position on the the Civic Betterment Party's role in the selection of candidates for village offices. A consensus meeting is set for Thursday, March 3 to be held in the Clayton Room at the Civic Center beginning at 7:00 pm.

All League members are invited to attend.  
Submitted by Carrie Burrows, Local Government

**LWVGE Program Planning Meeting 2022**

**You Are Invited!**

**When:** Saturday, February 5, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon (9:00 for coffee/treats; meeting starts at 9:30)

**Where:** Glen Ellyn Public Library, 400 Duane Avenue

**Why:** To let your voice be heard and contribute to the mission of the League

**What to Bring:** "Impact on Issues 2020-2022, A Guide To Public Policy Positions"; 2021-22 Membership Directory; **and your ideas!**

**Summary:** The Program Planning event is held at the beginning of each year by Leagues from all over the country to share in ideas to capture the essence of the League of Women Voters – to educate and actively participate on selected governmental issues. Attending Program Planning is a great way for new members to engage with longtime members about issues that are relevant to the local and wider community and to creatively participate in planning process for the upcoming year.

Agenda:

**Mingle with League Members**

Enjoy coffee and a treat at The Cafe at the Glen Ellyn Public Library.

**Making Democracy Work® and National Positions Review**

This year local Leagues will meet to review the LWVUS program. The input from local Leagues is instrumental in developing the education and advocacy platform, which will be adopted at the 2022 LWV Convention this summer and which will move the mission of LWV forward.

The LWVUS Summary of Policy Positions are attached and are divided into four topic sections: Representative Government; International Relations; Natural Resources; and Social Policy. A subset of these positions make up Making Democracy Work®. The task for LWVGE is to review the positions and express our level of support for Making Democracy Work®. We also will share with the LWVUS, which positions we use to act at the state and local level and comments on the positions.

For the full text of the national positions "Impact on Issues 2020-2022, A Guide To Public Policy Positions," visit the LWVUS website or the link: <https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues>.

**Local Level Positions Review**

The LWVGE local positions are found on pages 19–28 of the 2021-2022 Membership Directory. The local positions will be reviewed for retain/update/study/drop recommendations.

**Break**

**Local Level Program Planning**

Generate ideas for advocacy, programming and possible study for the upcoming year. Member ideas for putting our positions into action are encouraged. Our Membership is ripe with creativity, thoughtfulness and amazing intellectual prowess, especially when we gather together with a common purpose.

Submitted by Jodi Baltimore, VP of Programs

Please Support our Local Advertisers. Ads Found Here.



**February 5** - Annual Program Planning Meeting, 9:30 am- 12:00 pm. Glen Ellyn Public Library.

**February 10** - LWVGE Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, location/Zoom to be determined.

**February 17** - Community Meeting, Electoral College History and Reform, 7:00 pm. Location to be determined.

**March 3** - Civic Betterment Party Study Consensus Meeting, 7:00 pm.

**March 10** - LWVGE Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, location/Zoom to be determined.

**March 17** - Community Meeting, 7:00 pm. Details to come.

**Plans for events are subject to change. To avoid disappointment, please check the LWVGE website for final details.**

Questions about League events? Get details here:  
[www.lwvge.org](http://www.lwvge.org).

**Please visit our website for the most current information.**

PO Box 2391, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138

