



Join/Support

November 2023

The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Glen Ellyn



Dear Jacquelyn,

A Letter from the Co-Presidents

Fall greetings to everyone, and we hope you have been enjoying this glorious weather these past few weeks! This fall, LWVGE members have been busy as usual with a number of outreach efforts and projects:

- Thank you to our Voter Services team for coordinating voter registration drives at all four of the local high schools, as well as at the upcoming Naturalization Ceremony to be held at Cantigny in November. As a result, over 150 students were registered to vote, and numerous others picked up information to register online.
- Thank you to the dynamic Member Engagement team for all their work in organizing our new member engagement rings; our October members' meeting; and developing the Democracy Drop-Ins to give members opportunities to take concrete steps to impact legislation and other current issues.
- The Environmental team has been busy laying the groundwork for their anti-idling initiative.
- The Social Justice team has developed a comprehensive social justice Bill of Rights which will guide their work going forward.

Letter from Our Co-Presidents



- The Observer Corps has spent many hours attending numerous meetings of school boards, the park district board, the DuPage County board, and has kept us up to date on their activities.
- The Communication team has done an outstanding job of keeping us all abreast of the above activities, and engaging with the community through social media.

All of these activities are about making personal connections within our own League and the broader community in order to have an impact and make a difference. This Voter is full of information that you can use to get more involved. Please reach out to one of us if you have any questions or are unsure of who to contact to get started.

Lest you think we are all work and no play, please plan to join us on **December 7th** for our **Holiday Social at Park & Oak in downtown Glen Ellyn!** We encourage you to shop that day and support our local businesses, who have been impacted by all the construction in the downtown area. Bring your receipt(s) and you will be entered into a drawing for a fabulous grand prize. We will provide light appetizers, and there will be a cash bar. So bring a friend, and kick off the holiday season in downtown Glen Ellyn!

One final note, please watch your mail for a letter regarding our Fall Finance drive. As you may or may not know, the dues that you pay are forwarded on to both the LWVIL and the LWVUS to fund their important work. We would appreciate you considering a donation to the LWVGE to help fund our work as well.



In League,
Barbara Kwiatkowsky and Judy Kinn, Co-Presidents

Visit Our
Website

LWVGE Programs

We're just absorbing all that was presented at our October 26 *DemocraSee What You Can Do* Member Meeting! Our Community Engagement Committee really hit it out of the park on this one. Thank you to Bernie Laszewski, Jayne Boeckelman, Judy Gervase, Sandra Alexander, our Engagement Ring Leaders and others who are showing us the tools to get involved and to make a difference as members of the League. Nearly 40 people were on hand and it's no exaggeration to hear that before the evening even wrapped up, members were *already* making plans to join the One Meeting Challenge! (Make it a point to attend at least one board meeting of local officials this League year.) As Bernie said to the room, "The vehicle is there, you just need to get in!" The League offers all the tools you need to become civically engaged. We hope you attended this pivotal session meant to motivate us all. We also have a great new [handout \(click here!\)](#) chock full of resources we can use. Keep it handy!




Members at the DemocraSEE event - we had a packed audience!



Panelists Erica Nelson, Gary Fasules, and Mary Ozog



CIVIC AWARENESS SERIES



Bob Berlin
DuPage County
State's Attorney

Thursday, Nov 16th
7:00pm

Hybrid—both in-person
and on Zoom

If you missed our event with local Superintendents on September 28, you can rewatch the event here:
<https://youtu.be/LRxEP8npjG8>

Our final Civic Awareness Series event is coming up on November 16. Register for the in-person or virtual

Upcoming Programs for 2023/2024:

November 16, 2023
Bob Berlin - DuPage Safety Update
(Civic Awareness Series Program)
Cantigny Park - 7pm;
registration:
<https://cantigny.org/event/civic-awareness-series-public-safety-update/>

January 25, 2024
State of the Village
With Village President Mark Senak and Village Manager Mark Franz
Glen Ellyn Police Station - 7pm

February 3, 2024

option at the link in the sidebar.

In 2024, our annual “State of the Village” Community Meeting is on our calendar for Thursday, January 25 at 7 pm at the Glen Ellyn Police Station. Both Village Manager Mark Franz and Village President Mark Senak, our speakers, have been invited and hope to attend!

Looking ahead to the spring, please save the date of April 4 for the “Clean Air and Water Show” Community Program. Environmental concerns will be addressed at this event organized by the passionate and dedicated members of our Environment Committee, led by Jennifer Greenwalt.

Program Planning

Glen Ellyn Public Library

Details forthcoming

April 4, 2024

“The Clean Air and Water Show”

Environmental Community Meeting

Details forthcoming

Look for updates and additional information on all LWWGE programs and social events on our website lwwge.org, and in emails to our members.

Recap of Recent Civic Awareness Series, held at Cantigny Park in cooperation with sister DuPage Leagues:

On September 21, Audra Wilson was the featured speaker for a program about Racial and Economic Justice. Wilson, Director of the Shriver Center on Poverty Law, shed light on difficult issues regarding Diversity, Equality and Inclusion and the struggles facing the 38 million in our nation living in poverty. Wilson quoted social justice activist and professor Bryan Stevenson to explain, “The opposite of poverty is not wealth but is *justice*.” As a result, Wilson stressed that her efforts as an advocate trying to eradicate poverty in America focus on justice.

“Among our allies in this fight, because we’re all allies in this room, we do understand that even those of us in the fight, with the best of intentions, can still do harm and sometimes do do harm,” Wilson said, noting that we can’t fix what we’re not mindful of. Awareness is key. “That’s why as an advocate for economic justice, for racial justice, for social justice, we have to recognize and reckon with racism at all levels: individual, institutional, systematic, and structural. When we do that, that’s when we’re going to really make some amazing progress.”

Watch the entire program here: - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUuBys6PvKw>

Then on October 16, the CAS presented David Hiller, former executive of the Chicago Tribune and later CEO of the McCormick Foundation to share: (Dis)Trust in Elections. How appropriate for our Leagues where voting is so important!

“The focus on elections and democracy has never been more important or more in perilous times than we are finding currently,” said Hiller, pointing to graphs of the public’s falling trust in many institutions. “Trust is the lubricant, the glue, that holds things together.”

Weakening trust drags down the number of voters, the view of legitimate government, transitions of power, or how we even talk to one another. Hiller stressed news literacy, early civic education in schools, learning about current issues, and points well aligned with our goals in League: community engagement, talking to friends and family about voting, volunteering to help with local elections and holding government officials accountable as steps to counter the distrust around us.

Watch the entire program here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JLXMyIUMOA>

Submitted by Candy Purdom, VP Program

National and Illinois League News

Stay tuned for updates in the next issue!

Submitted by Judy Kinn, Co-President

Voter Services



Stay tuned for updates in the next issue!

Submitted by Deb Hornell and Dave Evans, Voter Services Co-Chairs

LWVGE Community Issues

Affordable Housing

Stay tuned for updates in the next issue!

Submitted by Clara Hughes, Member, Social Justice Committee and Joyce Hothan, Director, League Issues

Social Justice

Did You Know: Poverty in Glen Ellyn

Over the hundred plus years since its founding, LWV has worked to illuminate social justice ISSUES and promote ADVOCACY to effect change at local, state and national levels. This *Voter* debuts a new feature: “*Did You Know?*” providing background information regarding a relevant (or “in the news”) social justice issue, supported by documented sources. As voters, we know that making informed decisions depends on accurate information.



Today we will address the fallacy that poverty is nonexistent in Glen Ellyn.

Did You Know? Focus on Poverty in DuPage County

- 5.1% of the Glen Ellyn population live under the poverty level? That’s 1 out of 20 residents, or 1,430 people in our village. [1]
- The poverty rate in DuPage County is 6.1% [2] and the rate is 11.9% [3] in Illinois.
- Of those living under the poverty level in DuPage County, most are children and seniors. 7.2%[4] of all children in DuPage County and 6.2% [5] of all seniors in DuPage County live under the poverty level. Women in DuPage County are also more likely than men to be living under the poverty level (women – 6.7%, men – 5.5%)[6].

- The poverty level in 2023 for a single person is at or below \$14,580/year. For a family of four, the poverty level is at or below \$30,000/year [7].

Poverty is a very real issue here in Glen Ellyn, and it affects many social justice issues such as access to affordable housing, medical care, and educational opportunities, to name just a few. The Social Justice Committee's Sept *Voter* focus was on Affordable Housing, and we pledge to continue to illuminate these important issues for our members. LWVGE Social Justice Committee is always looking for new members to join us! Our next meeting is Saturday, December 9, 2023 8am-10am, at Sarah Allen's home, 822 Abbey Drive GE. All are welcome!

Questions or thoughts - email me, sarah.cleland.allen@gmail.com.

Statistics sourced:

- 1United States Census Bureau, as cited in Impact DuPage, (2023). *People Living Below Poverty Level*. <https://www.impactdupage.org/indicators/index/view?indicatorId=347&periodId=9907&localeId=163121>
- 2United States Census Bureau, as cited in Impact DuPage, (2023). *People Living Below Poverty Level*. <https://www.impactdupage.org/indicators/index/view?indicatorId=347&periodId=9907&localeId=668>
- 3United States Census Bureau, (2023). *Quick Facts, Illinois*. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/IL/AGE295221>
- 4American Community Survey 5-Year and United States Census Bureau as cited by Impact DuPage, (2023), *Children Living Below Poverty Level*. <https://www.impactdupage.org/indicators/index/view?indicatorId=189&localeId=668>
- 5American Community Survey 5-Year and United States Census Bureau, as cited in Impact DuPage, (2023), *People 65+ Living Below Poverty Level*. <https://www.impactdupage.org/indicators/index/view?indicatorId=343&localeId=668>
- 6American Community Survey 5-Year and United States Census Bureau, as cited in Impact DuPage, (2023), *People Living Below the Poverty Level*. <https://www.impactdupage.org/indicators/index/view?indicatorId=347&localeId=668&localeChartIdxs=1%7C3>.
- 7U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, (2023). *Poverty Guidelines – HHS Poverty Guidelines for 2023*.

Submitted by Sarah Allen, Director Social Justice

Membership

The League stands today at 176 members. Help us welcome our new members:

Anya Melton (Glen Ellyn)
Anna and Katherine Mojica (Glen Ellyn)
Karen Winter (Glen Ellyn)
Jeff Castle (Glen Ellyn)

Defending Democracy Drop In

The first session of the brand new Defending Democracy Drop-ins was on October 17, and 17 members and friends of members took some concrete actions to defend democracy! This session's action was regarding the sunset of Illinois' "Invest in Kids" voucher program, in response to a LWVIL Action Alert. Attendees walked out having written postcards and emails to their representatives. Drop-in leaders Sandra Alexander and John Vitalis gave attendees information on League positions and resources for contacting elected officials, as well as tools and tips on how to



communicate your concerns and how to advocate for your individual beliefs. Attending league member Deb Forkins said, “[I] loved the idea to present positions on different concerns/issues and then lead us to measures of impact if desired. It is brilliant. And it really helped me become better familiar with issues I did not know much about.”

The next Drop-in session is November 14, 11am-12 pm, at the Glen Ellyn Library in the North Room. Future sessions are January 9 and February 13, also 11-12pm. If you can not attend but have an interest, contact Judy Gervase at 630-291-0269 to get a copy of the handouts for information about the sessions’ topics. Hope to see you at a session!

Submitted by Judy Gervase, Membership

Defending Democracy recap submitted by Bernie Laszewski and Jayne Bockleman

2023 Holiday Social



It's just around the corner...our Fa la la la la, la la la League Holiday Social!

Join your fellow members for one of our favorite nights of the year. This season, we will be supporting our Downtown businesses. Shop anywhere you like in the Downtown, then gather at Park & Oak for a cup of cheer. Bring a friend!

Date: Thursday, December 7, 2023

Shopping: Downtown Glen Ellyn All day

Retail crawl: 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Holiday Social: 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

The Parlour at Park & Oak, 499 Pennsylvania Ave, Glen Ellyn

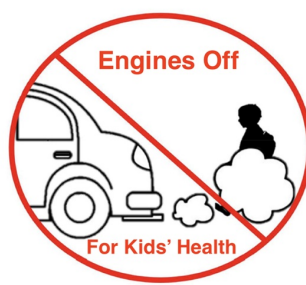
Cash bar available.

Drawing for BIG prize! - Show a receipt dated December 7 from any business in Downtown Glen Ellyn and enter a drawing for a BIG prize.

Drawing will be held at 8:15 PM.

RSVP info@lwwge.org

Environmental Issues



Environmental News

We are still actively working on our anti-idling initiative, to get people to turn off their cars in school pick-up lines. We have finished observations at the schools, and are still meeting with D41 PTAs and principals, plus writing the materials we plan to use after asking permission to use their communication channels. We are in search of a graphic designer to put together some simple materials for a car magnet and yard signs, and have contacted Glenbard West in hopes that we could have a student help.

We are also searching for another speaker for our April "Clean Air and Water Show" environmental meeting. If you have specific ideas for what you would like to learn about, please reach out to Jennifer Greenwalt at 773-615-3160 or jennifer_greenwalt@yahoo.com.

Submitted by Jennifer Greenwalt, Director, Environment

Legislative Issues



LOBBY DAY: VETO SESSION 2023 TIME FOR ADVOCACY!

Twenty-eight League of Women Voters of Illinois members met in Springfield on Tuesday, October 24th, for Advocacy Day 2023. The day opened with an information session on sunsetting the Invest in Kids Act. A so-called compromise bill HB4194, Invest in Kids Extension, was filed on October 24, and LWVIL members received an Action Alert on October 26 to contact legislators to vote no.

Act on the following three bills By NOVEMBER 6. The Fall VETO Session (second week) November 7-9. Constituent contact is vital. Make calls to your State Rep. and Senator and send emails **no later than November 7**, the first day of the final fall veto session in Springfield.

HB4194 details: VOTE NO

HB4194 Invest in Kids Extension, was filed on October 24 as a "compromise" to gather support for an extension of the program. The Invest in Kids school voucher program diverts millions from public education and 95% of students receiving these vouchers attend religious/private schools, while over 80% of our public schools in Illinois are underfunded. This conflicts with the separation of church and state and these schools are not required to accommodate or educate all students unlike public education where every child can enroll in their local public school.

The program diverts millions of public tax-payer dollars (\$56 million reported) from public

schools to scholarships for private and parochial schools. Less than 9600 children were a part of the program.

The Invest in Kids Act, passed in 2017, contains a sunset date of January 2025. The fall veto session is the last opportunity for the Illinois legislature to preserve this program. The current program allows a 75% tax credit. The “compromise” bill HB4194 allows a 100% tax credit for the first \$5000 of donations, and 55% or 65% for the remainder, making the tax credit even more generous for many donors. It also adds a federal tax deduction on top of the state credit. The bill reduces the maximum state contribution to \$50 million from \$75 million.

Tell your state representative to vote NO on HB4194, a proposed amendment that extends the Invest in Kids private school voucher program. The flaws in the current program are still present in this bill. Call Governor Pritzker 217-782-6830 press “7” to leave a voicemail. Tell Gov. Pritzker you oppose any legislation that revives or funds Invest in Kids.

LWVIL Position: The League opposes proposals that would provide public funds for private schools. State funding levels should be sufficient to enable districts to provide for all students an education that meets both standards established by the State Board of Education and legislated mandates.

HB1259, Sponsor: Rep. Hoan Hyunh VOTE YES

HB1259 Nurse Tuition Reimbursement allows individuals to apply for a program that provides a full tuition reimbursement to those who attended and graduated from an education program in IL and commit to working in a safety-net hospital in Illinois for at least five years.

LWVIL Position: the League supports financial incentives to increase health care workers in underserved areas.

SB 690, Sponsor: Senator Ann Gillespie. VOTE YES

SB 690, Mental Health Referenda, is in response to concerns that some of the Fall 2022 Referenda weren't written correctly and are invalid. Since the LWVGE supported the Milton Township 708 Community Mental Health Board, ask your State Rep. to support SB 690 to fully support community support for mental health, intellectual or developmental disability, and substance use disorders.

In April 2021 the Milton Township 708 Community Mental Health Board was passed by voters. The LWV Glen Ellyn supported that referendum under the LWVUS position on Social Policy > Health Care > Behavioral Health.

SB 690 passed the Senate on October 25th. This simple technical change validates those 708 CMH mental health authorities created and passed by voters in Fall 2022, ensuring that the 708 Community Mental Health boards passed are legally created which will allow them to fulfill their duties.

Advocacy is the heart of democracy. Your voice matters and your elected representative must hear your voice.

Submitted by Erica Nelson, Legislative Issues

Media Relations

Stay tuned for updates in the next issue!

Submitted by Karin Daly, Communications

Observer Corps: Promoting Transparency in Government

What is the Observer Corps?

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF GLEN ELLYN



The League of Women Voters has been a champion of openness in government throughout its history. We believe that government bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings, and making public record accessible.

The League's Observer Corp functions as the eyes and ears of the league. We ensure that members are aware of the decisions that impact their communities, and they promote government transparency and accountability. If you are interested in becoming a member of our Observer Corps or would like more information regarding the duties, please contact Carrie Burrows at carrieb131@gmail.com or call me at 630-263-9245. A one-hour training session is periodically offered by the state league to help explain the role of an observer. Our goal is to have all public bodies covered, and you can help make this happen!

Submitted by Carrie Burrows, Observer Corps

Next Book Club

Stay tuned for updates in the next issue!

Submitted by Shawn Fasules, Book Club

CALENDAR

Cantigny Awareness Series (CAS) noted in red

LWVGE Community Meetings noted in blue

Candidate Forums are highlighted

November 14, 2023 - Defending Democracy Drop In, 11am-12pm, Glen Ellyn Public Library

November 16, 2023 - Civic Awareness Series, Bob Berlin, 7 pm, at Cantigny and hybrid

November 16, 2023 - Board Meeting, 7 pm, Civic Center

December 7, 2023 - Holiday Member Social, Details Above!

January 9, 2024 - Defending Democracy Drop In, 11am-12pm, Glen Ellyn Public Library

January 25, 2024 - State of the Village meeting, 7pm, Glen Ellyn Police Station

February 3, 2024 - Program Planning, 9am-12:30pm, Glen Ellyn Public Library

February 13, 2024 - Defending Democracy Drop In, 11am-12pm, Glen Ellyn Public Library

April 4, 2024 - "The Clean Air and Water Show," details forthcoming

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

Please visit our website for the most current information

PO Box 2391, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138
(630) 790-2237
(630) 347-0922



League of Women Voters Glen Ellyn | PO Box 2391, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138

Unsubscribe_lwvgevoter@gmail.com

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
Notice](#)

Sent bylwvgevoter@gmail.compowered by



Try email marketing for free today!